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MAYWEATHER-COTTO
AN EXCITING - AND REVEALING - FIGHT

BOXING'S TOUGHEST JOB?
MATCHMAKERS FACE DAUNTING CHALLENGES

SPECIAL LONDON OLYMPICS PREVIEW SECTION

BRITAIN (LEFT) AND AMERICANS RAU'SHEE WARREN (CENTER) FOLLOW THEIR PREDECESSORS TO OLYMPIC GOLD IN LONDON

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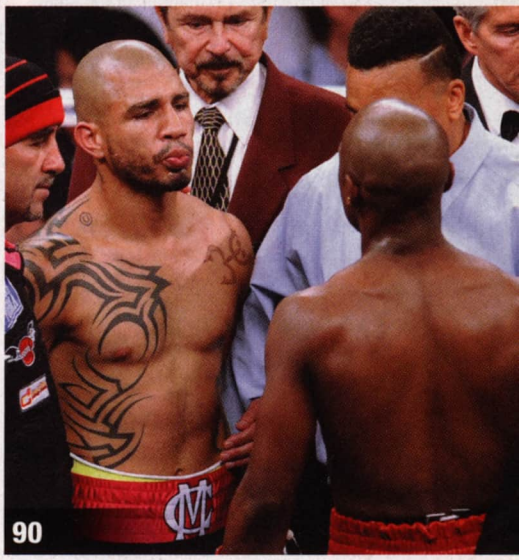

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WHICH WAY WILL BOXING GO?

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Boxing is at a crossroads when it comes to testing for performance-enhancing drugs.

Two high-profile fights — Amir Khan vs. Lamont Peterson and Victor Ortiz vs. Andre Berto — were canceled recently when Peterson and then Berto failed tests administered by the new Voluntary Anti-Doping Association.

That undoubtedly will have given pause to everyone in the sport, who don't want to see compelling — and lucrative — fights destroyed.

These people have two choices. One, dismiss random drug testing because of the damage caused by recent events and return to testing that was notoriously ineffective. Or, two, stick with a program that is working.

I fear the powers that be — or at least some of them — will choose the former. I truly hope they opt for the latter.

The positive tests of Peterson and Berto, as well as the fight cancelations, should serve not as a reason to revert to a weak system but as an important step toward a clean sport and a wake-up call to fighters and their handlers.

Peterson said he took synthetic testosterone on the advice of a doctor because he was low on the hormone, which our bodies produce. Unacceptable. Testing revealed an elevated level of testosterone, a clear violation in any reputable drug-testing program.

Berto apparently believes that trace amounts of the steroid Nandrolone found in his blood came from over-the-counter supplements. Unacceptable. The fact is that banned substances were in his system.

Peterson and Berto might not have intended to cheat. Doesn't matter. They are responsible for what is in their bodies.

Fighters and those who work with them must become more educated about performance-enhancing drugs and supplements from reliable experts, including VADA. The following is part of its mission statement:

"VADA will provide confidential counselling and referral assistance to athletes at risk for performance enhancing drug and harmful supplement use."

In other words, there is no excuse for ignorance.

No one in the sport would openly object to the mission of VADA: To rid the sport of illegal and sometimes dangerous drugs.

And for good reason: This isn't solely about the credibility of the sport or creating a level playing field, although that's part of the equation. This is life and death. The fighters put their very well-being in jeopardy every time they step through the ropes.

Those who run the sport have an obligation to protect fighters from opponents who would try to gain an advantage through artificial means. VADA has twice proved that it is capable of getting that done. ■

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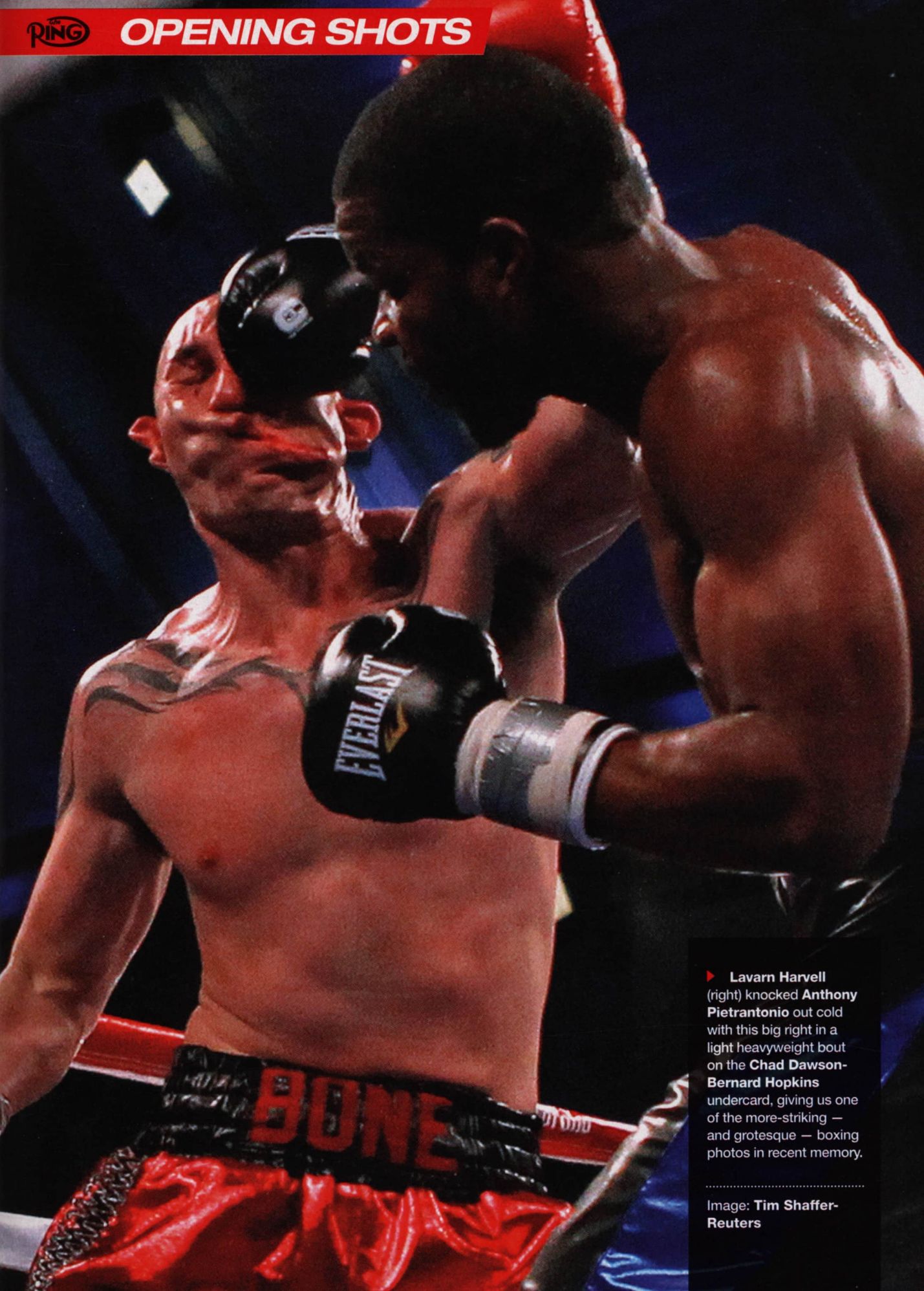

Lavarn Harvell (right) knocked **Anthony Pietrantonio** out cold with this big right in a light heavyweight bout on the **Chad Dawson-Bernard Hopkins** undercard, giving us one of the more-striking — and grotesque — boxing photos in recent memory.

Image: **Tim Shaffer-Reuters**

Chad Dawson (right) didn't land many clean shots like this one against the still-crafty **Bernard Hopkins** but got enough done to win a unanimous decision and claim THE RING light heavyweight championship.

Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

Relative unknown **Rowland Bryant** (left) stunned the boxing world by stopping tough veteran **Librado Andrade** in the third round of their scheduled 10-round light heavyweight bout on the **Abner Mares-Eric Morel** undercard.

Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

PEDS IN BOXING

A number of readers weighed in on the failed performance-enhancing drug tests of Lamont Peterson and Andre Berto.

WAKE-UP CALL

The recent positive drug tests of Lamont Peterson and Andre Berto demonstrate more than ever the need to have expanded and random testing of performance-enhancing drugs in boxing.

Other major sports over the years – particularly football and baseball – have evolved in terms of PED testing, and boxing's current testing of such drugs is simply archaic (as evidenced by Peterson's clean test following his fight with Amir Khan last December despite Peterson's admission that he took synthetic testosterone prior to the bout).

Boxing commissions and sanctioning bodies worldwide need to expand this testing and accept any extra costs, taking the next logical steps toward protecting their athletes and ensuring a level playing field.

Nevin Barich
Chatsworth, Calif.

NO SURPRISE

Why is it that people are shocked about steroid use in boxing?

Unless you're an idiot or you've suspended your disbelief, the evidence is obvious. One need only look at how much muscle some fighters have put on in recent years to see that this has been a trend for some time. Obviously, boxers have been moving up in weight for a long time, but not with the kind of almost-instant muscular gain that these guys have in the last couple of decades. I mean, some fighters have added 10-15 pounds of lean muscle in a matter of months. Besides, if athletes are using PEDs in a sport as tame as baseball, then it shouldn't be outside the realm of possibility that boxers would use them.

Cheating and corruption are obviously rampant in boxing, and let's face it, they pretty much always have been. The fight game is dirty. Who woulda thunk it?

John Sylvester
Seattle

EDDIE PERKINS: 1937-2012

I first met Eddie Perkins in 2007. My former trainer and I went to his home on the south side of Chicago and visited with him and his wife, Annie. I was excited when I shook his hand and told him how honored I was to meet him.

Eddie Perkins was one of the finest crafty, boxer-punchers of his time. It can't be overstated that he was a two-time world champion when it meant something to be called a champion. When you look at today's diluted titles, you can understand what I mean.

In later years, Eddie suffered from dementia, diabetes and other health problems but always managed a smile and a handshake. He passed away on May 10, 2012. I called Annie to give my condolences to the family.

My fondest memory of Eddie was also my greatest moment in boxing: I had the honor of bringing Eddie and his wife to Canastota, N.Y., in June 2008 for his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

Ernie Brown
Boxing second and cut man
Zion, Ill.

ACTION HEROES

I wanted to express my appreciation of fighters with the courage to lay it all on the line.

As we come closer to the end of a generation of action fighters such as Erik Morales and Manny Pacquiao, fighters like Victor Ortiz and Brandon Rios are ready to keep boxing buzzing for the new era. They have put on excellent shows for the fans, win or lose. And Ortiz and Rios are not alone in the spotlight. Argentina's Marcos Maidana and Mexico's Canelo Alverez have had their share of exciting, action-packed fights. James Kirkland can certainly become a huge draw if he continues to fight like he did against Alfredo Angulo. And although JuanMa Lopez lost by KO for the second time against Orlando Salido, I still look forward to possible showdowns between the Puerto Rican and Yuriorkis Gamboa or American up-and-comer Adrian Broner.

Our sport seems to have a bright future. I look foward to boxing discovering its new action heroes.

Phillip Muniz
Stockton, Calif.

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Miguel Cotto (left) deserves credit for making **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** work for his unanimous-decision victory on May 5 in Las Vegas.

Image: **Tom Hogan-Hoganphotos**

NOT WHAT YOU THOUGHT

By: **David Greisman**

The best thing Miguel Cotto did against Floyd Mayweather Jr. was do better than many other fighters had done, and better than many fans expected him to do.

That meant that those watching scored the fight closer than it actually was, both on the scorecards and in reality. That meant that what was actually a clear, wide unanimous decision apparently became a competitive, close majority delusion. Some had Mayweather winning narrowly. Some somehow had it a draw. Some even had a victory for Cotto.

They graded Cotto's performance on a curve, simultaneously praising and patronizing him, not necessarily seeing him actually do well so much as believing that to be the case.

Give Cotto credit: He made Mayweather work for the victory, using a combination of defense and patience to keep Mayweather from countering him, and then forcing and following an all-too-willing Mayweather to the ropes, where Cotto's controlled aggression kept Mayweather from getting comfortable.

Mayweather had to spend more time both on offense and on defense. Cotto was neither demolished nor dismantled. Yet there was exactly one fewer moment in which Mayweather was in trouble against Cotto than there was in Mayweather's fight with Shane Mosley.

That's not to say that Cotto's performance was poor; Cotto did as well as he could. Mayweather didn't do as well as he normally could, and still he did better than Cotto. Those who saw a closer contest might have wished that to be the case. There were also those who saw Oscar De La Hoya giving Mayweather a good fight when that, too, was a decisive win for Mayweather.

Chalk it up to wishful thinking or anti-Mayweather subliminal (or not so subliminal) sentiment. Chalk it up to hoping for an oasis in the middle of a desert only to clear your head and realize you fell victim to a mirage. Or chalk it up to a drunken bedding, a hapless hook-up that's not so good-looking when sobriety shines a light on harsh reality.

We should acknowledge that **Bernard Hopkins** (right) had his moments in his rematch with **Chad Dawson** but a few moments don't amount to much in a 12-round fight.

Image: **Al Bello-Getty Images**

Then again, I was in the minority on the scorecards — and you definitely shouldn't see some of my former flames.

***

It's past time we stop grading Bernard Hopkins on a curve as well.

He's ranged the spectrum: 'A' for amazing accomplishments, 'B' for being a brilliant boxer, 'C' for his championship reigns, and 'D' for doing what no one else has done before in dominating Jean Pascal to become the oldest-ever person to win a championship.

But there have been far too many 'F's in there: foul-filled fights, flustered fans and the flow of F-words that followed.

Go back to his first fight with Jermain Taylor nearly seven years ago. Hopkins has fought 12 times since, including that July, and only four of those fights were neither hideous nor horrendously boring: the light heavyweight championship win over Antonio Tarver, the comeback win over Kelly Pavlik after Hopkins had lost his championship to Joe Calzaghe, the draw with Jean Pascal and his decision win in the rematch with Pascal to regain the championship.

When his legacy is on the line, Hopkins will do more than just win — he'll look good doing it. Hopkins does deserve massive acclaim.

No other 40-something could do what he did in defeating world champions young enough to be his children. Yet for whatever brief moments Hopkins had in his rematch loss in April to Chad Dawson, it's ridiculous to consider moments of success remarkable when the rest of the night was regrettable.

There's no acclaim when your first focus is on frustrating your foe. It's a lot easier to last in there with the young guns, even when you're not keen on pulling your own trigger, if your intent is to keep the other guy from getting a clean shot.

Going 4 for 12 is a good average in baseball, not in boxing. For all that Bernard Hopkins has accomplished, his recent performances brought out all of those 'F's, and his retirement will bring out another — "Finally."

***

We knew Lamont Peterson had balls by the way he fought the first fight. We now know Lamont Peterson's balls aren't quite what we thought they were by the way he brought the rematch to its unfortunate cancellation.

Peterson's team says the junior welterweight was taking synthetic testosterone because he had been diagnosed with hypogonadism, which would cause him to produce too little of the hormone naturally.

He didn't disclose the condition to the athletic commission or to those doing the drug testing, however — a decision that wasn't ballsy, but nuts — and now Peterson's foremost fight is for his reputation.

He'd have an easier time trying to bring integrity to the Texas athletic commission.

We're now a mix of suspicious and paranoid. We're now all too aware that professional athletes, and even amateurs, will now do anything to gain an advantage, and that includes boxers.

There is the legal: the supplements, hyperbaric chambers, conditioning gurus, advanced training techniques, camps at high elevations, massive drops in weight and even the occasional sip of your own urine.

There is the illegal: the steroids, blood doping, mouthpiece spitting, tampered gloves and hand wraps, intentional low blows, supposedly accidental head butts and Panama Lewis mixing a special bottle — no, the other one — for Aaron Pryor.

Boxers have seemingly tried everything excluding sacrificing a ring card girl at the nearest volcano — except, well, the sacrifices historically need to be virgins, and, well… ■

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LINKED BY FATE

Some fighters are legendary champions. Others are footnotes to history. Often, the two are linked.

On August 16, 1965, Woody Goss was a club fighter with a 2-2 record. The two guys he'd lost to had seven losses in seven fights. The two guys he'd beaten would retire from the sweet science without a victory to their credit.

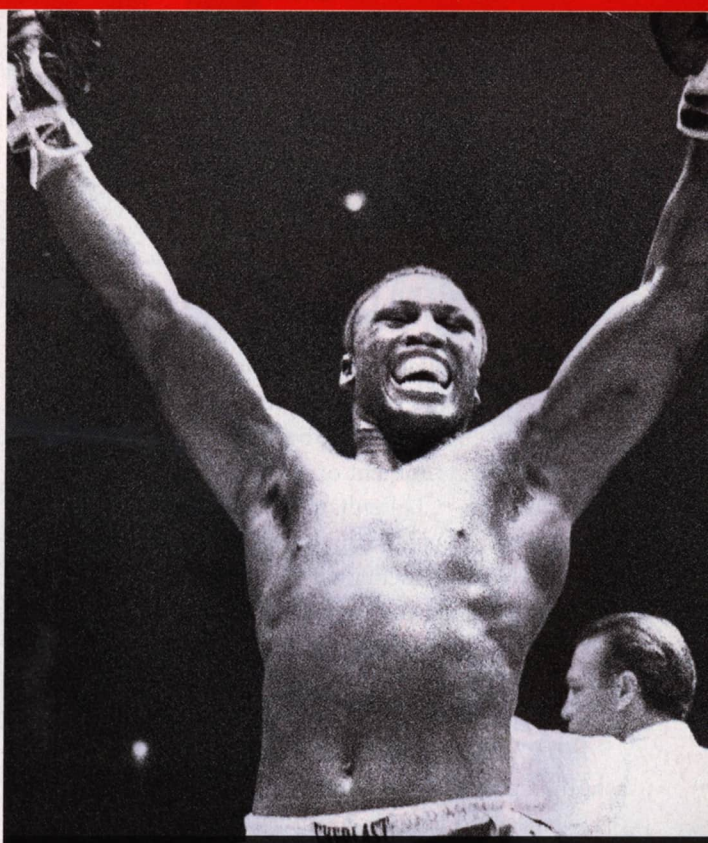
Goss was slated to fight Johnny Deutsch, a local prospect with a 5-1 record, on the undercard that night. But the main-event opponent fell out and Woody was pressed into emergency service. For a few more dollars, he agreed to fight a 21-year-old heavyweight who was making his pro debut.

At least Goss was paid. The guy he fought didn't get anything but a handful of tickets that he sold for $125.

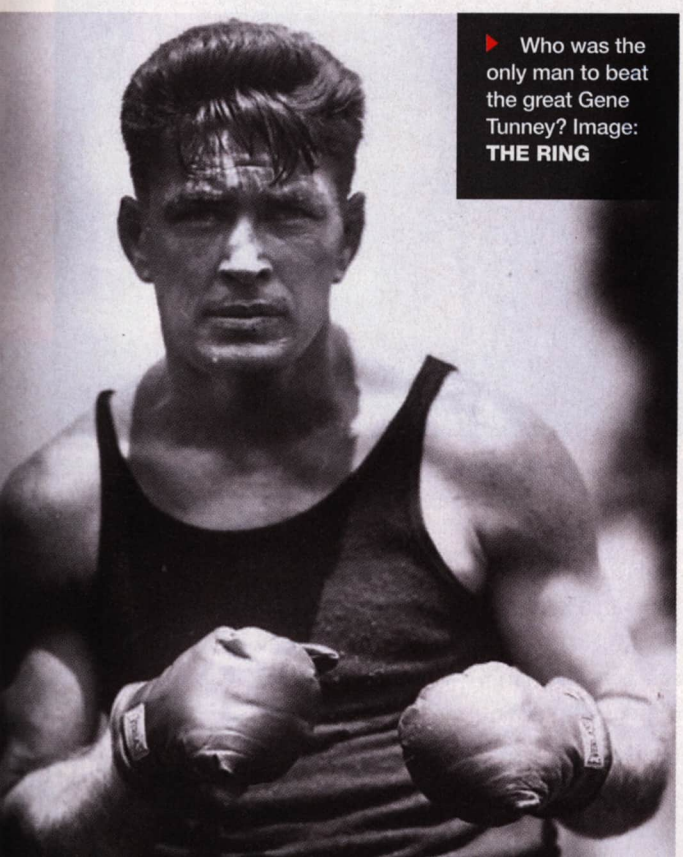
That guy, by the way, was Joe Frazier.

Frazier knocked Goss down with a left hook in the first round. Referee Zack Clayton called a halt to the action 102 seconds into the fight. Goss protested the stoppage and said afterward, "Lee Phillips [a local light heavyweight] hit me with harder shots in the gym."

"He came to win and he lost," Frazier countered. "He ran into a left hook like everyone else."



A quirk of fate introduced journeyman **Woody Goss** to this man. Image: **THE RING**



Who was the only man to beat the great Gene Tunney? Image: **THE RING**

QUICK QUIZ

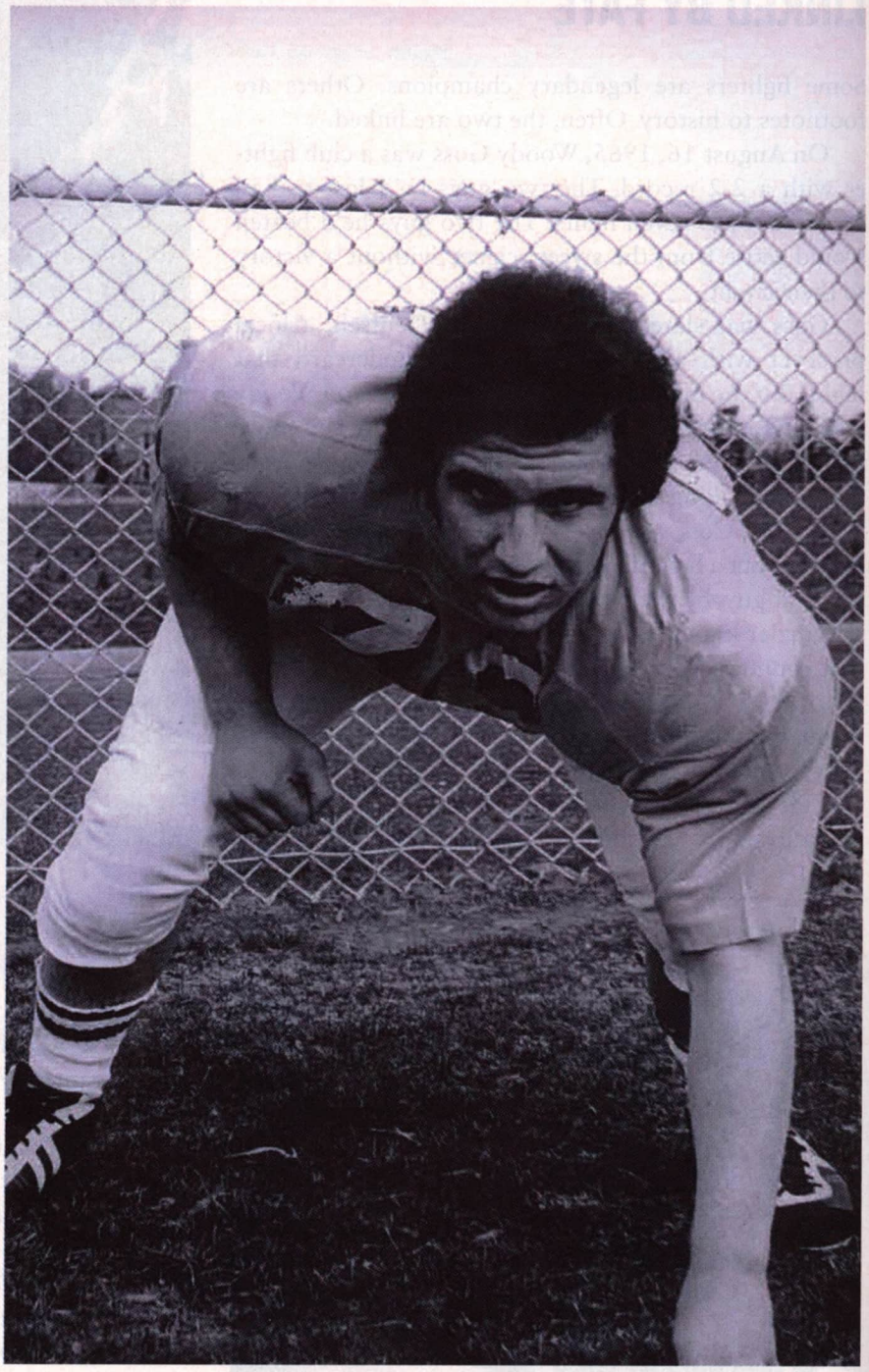
1. Angelo Dundee was Muhammad Ali's third professional trainer. Who were the first two?

2. Great champions have bequeathed autobiographies to their fans for over a century. Which champions are credited with the titles below:

   a. *The Roar of the Crowd*
   b. *Fighting was My Business*
   c. *My Life and Battles*
   d. *Round By Round*
   e. *A Man Must Fight*
   f. *Gloves, Glory, and God*
   g. *No Man Stands Alone*
   h. *Any Boy Can*
   i. *Against the Odds*

3. Gene Tunney lost only once in a professional career that included 77 fights over thirteen years. Who beat him?

PROMOTER ARTIE PELULLO REMEMBERS HIS GREATEST MOMENT IN SPORTS ... OUTSIDE OF BOXING



Promoter Artie Pelullo had his greatest moment outside boxing on the gridiron.

It wasn't just my greatest moment in sports. Outside of getting married and my children being born, it was the greatest moment of my life.

I went to Cheltenham High School, which is a public high school in Pennsylvania. Cheltenham's biggest rival is Abington High School. The Cheltenham-Abington rivalry is one of the oldest football rivalries in Pennsylvania.

In 1973, my senior year of high school, I played both ways. Guard on defense and tackle on offense. I was a bull. I weighed 240 pounds and could bench press 260. I made first team all-area and second team all-state.

The game was at Abington. Each team had a 7-2 record, but what really mattered was beating Abington. For anyone who went to either school, it was like the Army-Navy game.

There were 9,000 people in the stands. With 45 seconds left to play, we were winning 15-14. Abington had the ball on our 20-yard-line and lined up for a field goal. I was in the gap and took off at the exact moment of the snap. The holder put the ball down. I'm barreling toward the kicker and something in my head says, "Put your hands up, idiot." So I put my arms up in the air. The ball hit my right forearm. And the crowd went crazy.

My teammates mobbed me on the sideline. I felt so good, and it only got better. On the bus going back to Cheltenham after the game, the coach stood up and said, "Artie, I think this belongs to you. Then he flipped the game ball to me. And at the dance in the high school gym that night, Janet McPhee, who was very hot, slow-danced with me. You can put that in your article. But if you do, also put in that my wife and I have been married for 31 years and I'm the luckiest husband in the world.

The belt of "phony champions?" Image: **Al Bello-Getty Images**

NO LAUGHING MATTER

Satire is the use of irony and humor to expose folly. With that in mind, let us "report" that World Boxing Council president Jose Sulaiman announced recently that the WBC has added another category of champion to its ever-expanding list.

"We have world champions, super champions, diamond champions, interim champions, silver champions and champions emeritus," Sulaiman announced at a press conference in Mexico City. "Now the board of governors has voted that each weight division will also have a phony champion. This is for the good of boxing because it will give more fighters the opportunity to pay a sanctioning fee and wear the coveted green belt."

That led to an interesting colloquy between Sulaiman and a reporter, who noted that many WBC beltholders are already phony champions.

"I know. But please, do not tell anybody," Sulaiman said.

QUIZ ANSWERS: **1.** Cassius Clay, as he was then known, trained in Louisville with Fred Stoner for his first professional fight. Then he went out to California and trained for seven weeks with Archie Moore. **2. a.** James Corbett, **b.** Jimmy Wilde, **c.** Jack Johnson, **d.** Jack Dempsey, **e.** Gene Tunney, **f.** Henry Armstrong, **g.** Barney Ross, **h.** Archie Moore, **i.** Larry Holmes **3.** Harry Greb defeated Tunney by a 15-round decision on May 23, 1922. They fought each other four more times with Tunney winning outright twice and twice more on "newspaper decisions."

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at **thauser@rcn.com**. His most recent book (*Winks and Daggers: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing*) was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

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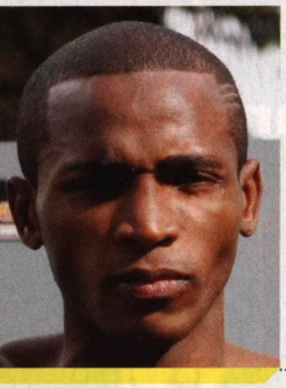
FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

THE REGULAR RING FEATURE "PLAYLIST" HAS EVOLVED INTO "FIGHTERS' FAVORITES," WHICH INCLUDES NOT ONLY SELECTED BOXERS' MUSIC OF CHOICE BUT ALSO THEIR FAVORITES IN SIX OTHER CATEGORIES.

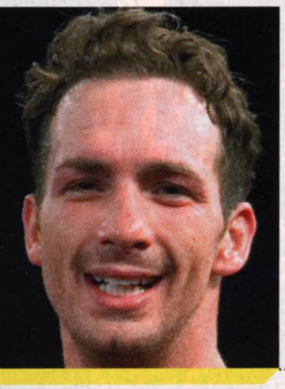
ROBERT GUERRERO

MUSIC: Foo Fighters
CAR: 48 Chevy Fleetline 2-door
FOOD: Mexican
TATOO(S): No
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Phil Mickelson
MOVIE: *Bachelor Party*
VIDEO GAME: *Mario Bros.*



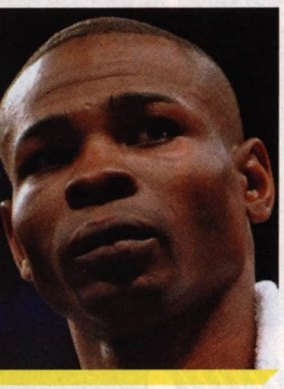
ERISLANDY LARA

MUSIC: Pitbull
CAR: Porsche Panorama
FOOD: Benihana (Japanese Cuisine)
TATOO(S): "Yes, just one, XXX on the back of my neck. It's not visible at all. It was more of a bet. I'm not a big fan of tattoos!" (Laughs)
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Lionel Messi, soccer player from Barcelona, which is my favorite team.
MOVIE: *Fast Five*
VIDEO GAME: *FIFA Soccer*



TOMMY RAINONE

MUSIC: Metallica
CAR: Drives a Mazda 6, dream car is a Delorian
FOOD: Italian, with Mexican being a close second
TATOO(S): Sun and the moon on his back. "Sun on the left, happier days than where I came from. Moon is on the left and a reflection of my dark past."
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Derek Jeter
MOVIE: *Raging Bull* or *Basketball Diaries*
VIDEO GAME: *Wrestle Fest*, an arcade game. Not a video guy.



GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX

MUSIC: Rick Ross
CAR: Rolls Royce Phantom
FOOD: Cuban
TATOO(S): No
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Michael Jordan
MOVIE: Any movie with Jet Li
VIDEO GAME: *Drifty*

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

THIS MONTH: BOXERS AT LEAST 7-FEET TALL. WE MARVEL AT THE SIZE OF THE HEAVYWEIGHTS LIKE THE KLITSCHKOS, TYSON FURY AND DAVID PRICE. THEY'RE MIDGETS COMPARED TO THESE GUYS. INCLUDES THEIR RECORDS AND YEARS THEY FOUGHT.

Image: Dean Treml-Getty Images

1. 7-4 (224cm): Gogea Mitu, Romania (2-1, 1935) – Lost to highly regarded African-American heavyweight George Godfrey. One Web site listed him at 7-9.

7-4 (224cm): John Rankin, New Orleans (1-0, 1967) – Fought only once, in his hometown, and won a four-round decision.

3. 7-2 (218cm): Jim Cully, Ireland (1-2, 1942 and 1948) – It's a long man from Tipperary.

7-2 (218cm): Ewart Potgieter, South Africa (11-2-1, 1954-57) – Fought only journeymen in southern Africa, the UK and the U.S.

5. 7-1 (216cm): Carl Chancellor, El Paso, Texas (4-6-2, 1988-90) – Once fought at 430 pounds.

7-1 (216cm): Julius Long, Detroit (15-12, 2001-present) – Has lost to some big names, including Ray Austin, Sam Peter and Audley Harrison.

7-1 (216cm): Tom Payne, Napa, Calif. (2-2, 1984-85) – Former NBA player went to prison for multiple rape convictions.

8. 7-0 (213cm): Nikolai Valuev (pictured above), Russia (50-1, 1993-present) – The greatest 7-foot boxer in history.

7-0 (213cm): Marcellus Brown, Louisville, Ky (26-17-1, 1989-2008) – Has lost to Trevor Berbick, Tommy Morrison and Lamon Brewster.

7-0 (213cm): Luis Alberto Gonzalez, Colombia (N/A) – Reportedly fought out of Miami in the mid-1980s.

7-0 (213cm): Gil Anderson, Richmond, Calif. (2-0, 1954) – Fought only in his hometown.

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

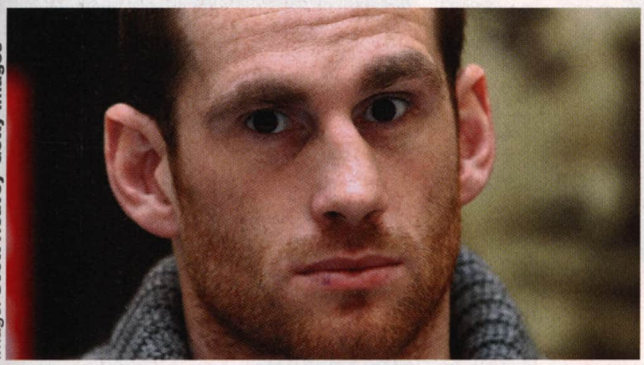


Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

GOOD

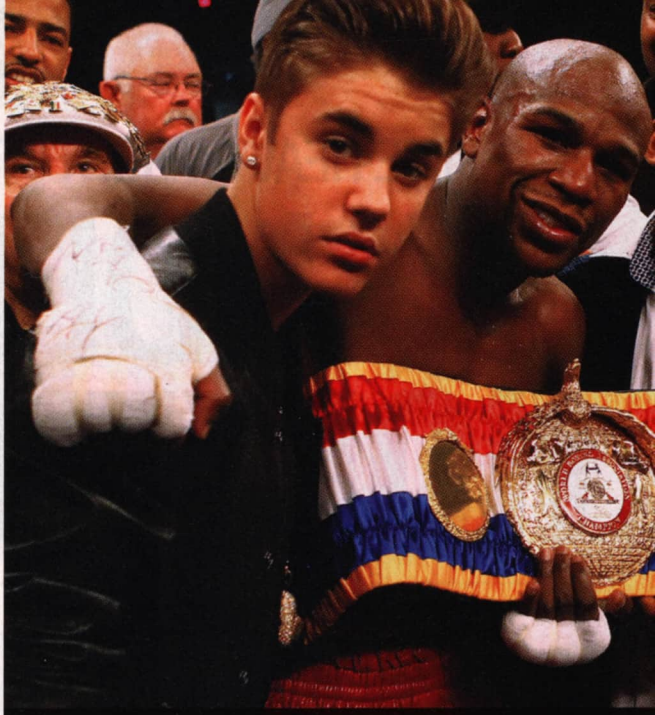
David Price's sensational fourth-round knockout of Sam Sexton on May 19 doesn't make him an immediate threat to the Klitschko brothers, the undisputed kings of the heavyweight division. But Price's victory has added to an already-exciting phenomenon across the Atlantic: The rise of British heavyweights. Price, Tyson Fury, David Haye and Derreck Chisora are all interesting and all perceived to be good fighters. Plus, all but Haye are younger than 30. This is the era of the Klitschkos. The next era could belong to the Brits.

BAD

The fact that Andre Ward and Chad Dawson agreed to fight one another could easily be classified under "good." How often do two such talented young fighters decide to face one another? They should be applauded. I cringed when I heard about the matchup, though. Ward and Dawson are gifted but often painfully boring to watch. Together they could be marketed as a cure for insomnia. I hope I'm wrong; I hope Ward and Dawson take enough risks to give us an entertaining fight. A high-profile tactical fight probably won't do boxing any good.

WORSE

The manner in which Manny Pacquiao's comments about gay marriage were handled by the media was disgraceful. A Filipino "reporter" from the marginal examiner.com posted an item indicating that the fighter opposes gay marriage. The reporter inexplicably included a passage from the bible that says homosexuals should be put to death, which many somehow ascribed to Pacquiao. Thus, Pacquiao was deemed violently homophobic — even in some mainstream reports. Say what you will about Pacquiao's take on gay marriage. He definitely didn't deserve this.



Sources say that **Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s** daughter is infatuated with **Justin Bieber**, who is a big fan of Mayweather, which is why he was part of the boxer's entourage for his fight against **Miguel Cotto**. Image: **Al Bello-Getty Images**

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS.
THIS MONTH: WHAT WOULD THE RESULT BE IF FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. WERE TO FIGHT MANNY PACQUIAO?

PACQUIAO BY KO	37.2
MAYWEATHER BY DECISION	37.0
MAYWEATHER BY KO	12.1
PACQUIAO BY DECISION	12.1
DRAW	1.6

NOTE: 6,794 READERS VOTED IN THE POLL.

FIVE-TIME HEAVYWEIGHT TITLEHOLDER

EVANDER HOLYFIELD

By **Lem Satterfield**

Evander Holyfield was an undersized ball of fire who built an epic heavyweight career with a deadly combination of skill and will.

"The Real Deal" started his pro career a few pounds over the light heavyweight limit of 175 pounds but won three versions of the cruiserweight title and was a five-time heavyweight titleholder, making him one of the dominant fighters of the 1990s.

Holyfield fought every top heavyweight on the planet, beating the likes of Buster Douglas, Michael Dokes, George Foreman, Riddick Bowe, Ray Mercer, Michael Moorer and, most famously, Mike Tyson.

And, for better or worse, Holyfield has yet to retire even as he approaches his 50th birthday. We can question his judgment but we must admire his undying confidence and perseverance.

Who was the best Holyfield faced over the past 28 years?

Well, he graciously agreed to reveal to THE RING the opponents he believes were best in 10 key categories. Here is what he said:

BEST OVERALL: DWIGHT MUHAMMAD QAWI

I know people view him as a straight-ahead fighter, but he was one of those types of guys who could throw punches in bunches and could consistently keep pressuring you. I guess he was more of a tactician. He knew what it took to make you fight every second that you were in there. As an overall fighter, I think it all came down to that.

BEST PUNCHER: RIDDICK BOWE

It was just the fact that, being a big guy, you know, he had quick hands for his size and could connect a lot. I got hit constantly with a hard punch throughout the whole fight. The majority of the fight, if you got off balance, he still caught you. Consistently. That was pretty much the way the fight went when I fought him.

BEST JAB: MICHAEL MOORER

It was just that if I stood there with him, he's going to get that jab in there before I got mine off. Being that he was a left-hander, it was just enough to offset him from getting hit by me.

BEST CHIN: GEORGE FOREMAN

I would say George. I did hit him consistently a lot and he was still there. Most of the people I fought had good chins. But there ain't too many people that I could consistently catch on the chin like him, where I would keep hitting him and he just wouldn't fall.

BEST DEFENSE: MOORER

I would give that to Michael Moorer. His defense was just hard to break through. I studied a while to be able to hit him with a good shot. I really couldn't catch him the way I wanted to unless it was with an uppercut.

BEST BOXER: MICHAEL DOKES

He punched in bunches, he had good combinations to the head and to the body. He was a good, slick boxer at that time in my career. I couldn't always hit him with everything. It wasn't that his arms were so much longer or that he was stronger, he was just a good boxer. He had good ring generalship.

FASTEST HANDS: DOKES

Michael Dokes had quick ones … had those quick hands. When I was fresh, I was still getting it, and when I was tired, I was still getting it. Even when I was holding my hands up.

STRONGEST: FOREMAN

George Foreman the strongest individual that I fought. Even with Lennox, I could move him back. You couldn't move George back.

SMARTEST: LENNOX LEWIS

Lennox was one of those guys that fought like a big guy. He could be quick at times when he wanted to be. Smart fighter. He was going to fight his style regardless of whatever style you fought. He can get you from a distance, but he's not going to get overly aggressive because he's going to make sure that you don't hit him back.

He'll grab you or do something else to offset you. He's going to be smart and fight the fight that works for him. Riddick Bowe would sometimes fight a fight that would allow me to get to him. Lennox wasn't going to fight that fight that would let me get him. He will try to get you, but he won't put himself in position where I could get him. He had range.

FASTEST FEET: NONE

People ran, but I could catch them if I wanted to. It just depended on if I wanted to. There weren't a lot of people who could get around me if I didn't want them to get around me. ■

Evander Holyfield (left) told THE RING that **Riddick Bowe** was the hardest puncher he ever faced.

Image: **Al Bello-Getty Images**

A FIGHTER'S BAIN

LOSING THOSE FINAL FEW POUNDS

By **T.K. Stewart**

One of the most challenging dilemmas for any world class fighter is the struggle to shrink their bodies down to fighting weight. For many, the duel with the scale is a daunting confrontation. Those who have failed miserably to meet a certain weight limit comprise a list of shame — Jose Luis Castillo, Joan Guzman and Brandon Rios are names that come to the forefront. All have been confounded by what is thought to be a simple case of losing the final two or three pounds to make weight.

Armchair critics deride fighters for not being able to make weight, labeling them as unprofessional. But it's those final few marks on the scale that prove to be the undoing of many.

World renowned cut-man Miguel Diaz has been at the side of several who have struggled. Best known as one that stems the flow of blood, Diaz is also an astute trainer. He was at Diego Corrales' side in January 2001 when Corrales struggled mightily to make the 130-pound limit against Floyd Mayweather, Jr. He understands well the task of making weight and the effort that surrounds it.

"It was a very tough day for him," Diaz said of Corrales' struggle. "He didn't have the best camp because he had to have wisdom teeth removed in the weeks before the fight, and he was going through some personal problems. What happened was he couldn't train like he should have, and when the fight came up, he was still too heavy."

Corrales, like many who struggle with their weight, believed as long as he could get within seven or eight pounds of the limit he could sweat off the remaining weight by drying himself out and thus be safe on weigh-in day.

"It doesn't always work," says Diaz of the drying-out practice. "You have to be in condition and you have to train so that you are at the good weight, the healthy weight, and that you are strong. Diego, he wasn't in the condition, his body wasn't ready. He made the weight that day by going into the sauna, and that made him weak."

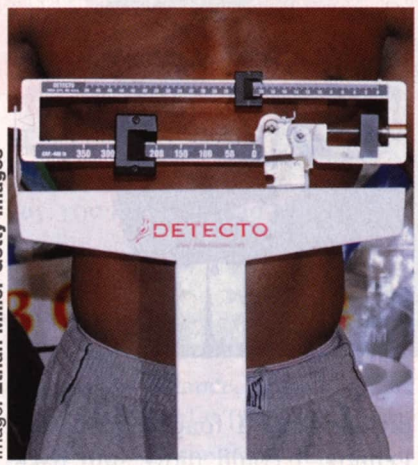


Image: **Ethan Miller-Getty Images**

Fighters fail to make weight for a number of reasons. Age and body maturity often results in physiological changes and additional muscular weight, which is much more difficult to shed than fat. Some lose the desire to train as diligently as they did when they were young contenders, and rather than struggle and sacrifice in the gym to train down to a certain limit, they slack off during training with the intention of drying out in the final few days. This practice has backfired on both Jose Luis Castillo and Joan Guzman, who both noted that although drying out was always standard practice for them it became more difficult as they aged. As a result, each missed weight on several occasions.

Others struggle as they don't always live the life of a professional prizefighter in the fact they make incorrect food choices and consume calorie-laden foods instead of nutrient-rich ones. For others, such as the recently disgraced Brandon Rios, it is as simple as choosing to compete in an incorrect weight class.

One fighter that could be held up as the shining example that all weight-challenged fighters should aspire to is none other than "Irish" Micky Ward. During an 18-year professional career, Ward's only home was the 140-pound division. From the age of 19 when he turned pro, until his final war against Arturo Gatti at age 38, Ward never missed weight and during his heyday his weight rarely fluctuated. For his first professional bout in 1985 he scaled 139 pounds and for his finale against Gatti he checked in at 142.

"I always trained hard and I never got too far out of shape in between fights," says Ward, who remains close to his fighting weight nearly nine years after his final bout. His advice for those fighters that struggle to make weight is simple: "You gotta' keep an eye on what you're eating and what you're drinking and you gotta' train. You gotta' do all the work in the gym beforehand so when the time comes you're ready and you won't have to struggle and you won't run into trouble." ■

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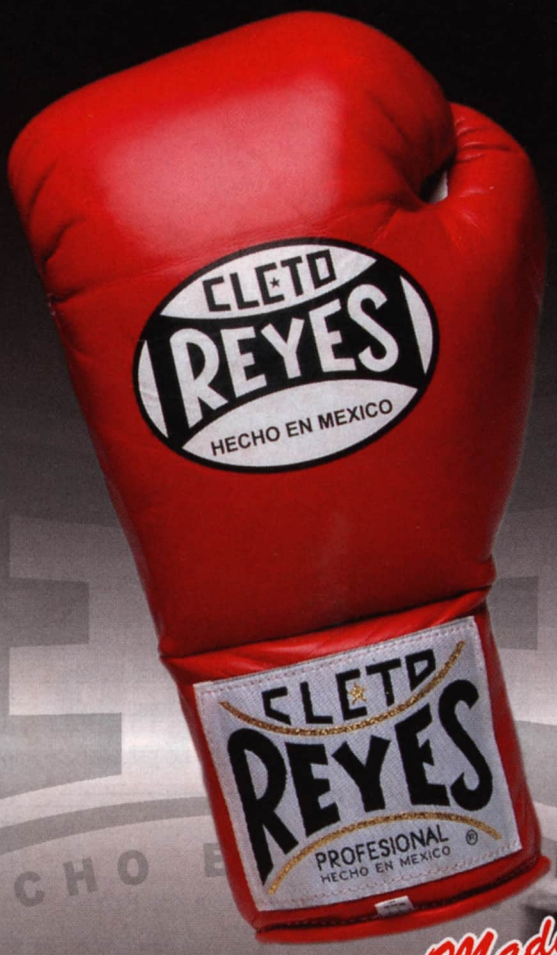

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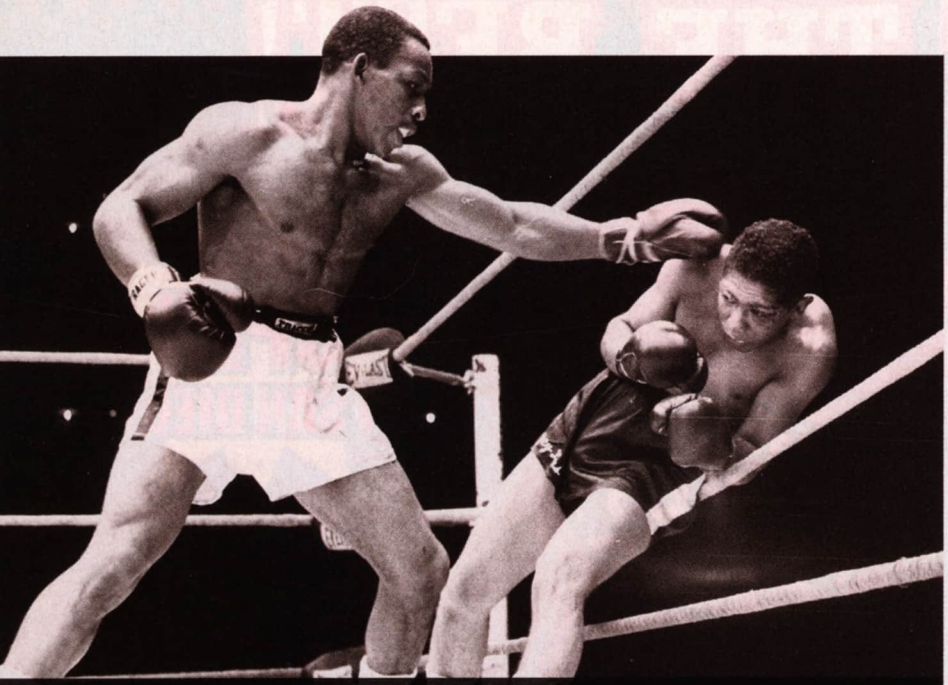

Hall of Famer **Eddie Perkins** passed away on May 10 at his home in Chicago. He was 75. Image: **THE RING**

TEXAS MISSTEP

By **Brian Harty**

University of Texas System chancellor **Francisco Cigarroa** got a heads-up in mid-April from the Department of Homeland Security letting him know that the bout between **Julio Cesar Chavez Jr.** and **Andy Lee**, scheduled for June 16 at the Sun Bowl in El Paso, would be attended by members of rival Mexican drug cartels. The tip was compounded by a rumor that Chavez Jr. was dating a woman whose former father-in-law, **Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán**, controls the Sinaloa Cartel, better known to the U.S. government as "the most powerful drug trafficking organization in the world." This was too much for Cigarroa, who on April 24 decided that the stadium — which had accommodated more than 40,000 people for **Oscar De La Hoya** vs. **Patrick Charpentier** in 1998 — would not host the event because of security concerns. Chavez's promoter, **Bob Arum**, denounced the move as "racist," while Texas Senator **Jose Rodriguez** said the ban would cost the city its reputation plus millions in lost revenue. Cigarroa relented and allowed the original plan to go forward, but threw in another buzz-kill as a condition: no alcohol sales at the fight. ...

Conditioning coach **Alex Ariza** spoke for everyone watching **Floyd Mayweather Jr's** walk-in to face **Miguel Cotto** on May 5 when he Tweeted, "Good God is that **Justin Bieber**!?!?" The teenage pop star was the newest addition to Money's entourage, which that night also included **Triple H** and **Lil Wayne** along with mainstay **50 Cent**, who announced following the fight that he is considering a pro boxing debut of his own. ...

Asked in an interview with ESPN about things he *hadn't* discussed in his Las Vegas show, **Mike Tyson** casually mentioned impregnating a prison official in Indiana while serving three years for the rape of **Desiree Washington**. ...

Hall of Famer **Eddie Perkins** passed away on May 10 at his home in Chicago. He was 75 years old. A junior welterweight boxer-puncher by trade, Perkins fell twice but stood up to capture his first world title in Italy with a 15-round decision over **Duilio Loi** in 1962, then gave it back in his next fight. He became world champion again in 1963 with a win over **Roberto Cruz** in the Philippines and successfully defended in Japan and Jamaica before losing a controversial decision to **Carlos Hernandez** in Venezuela. Truly a boxer of the world, Perkins fought in more than 20 countries over the course of his pro career, which ended in 1975 with a record of 74-20-2 (21 knockouts). ...

Brian Viloria dedicated his May 12 knockout of **Omar Nino** to the memory of former lightweight contender **Andy Ganigan**, who died on May 2 at age 59 as a result of complications from brain damage suffered when he was attacked by a drunken man two years earlier. In his only fight for a major world title, the hard-punching Ganigan (34-5, 30 KOs) dropped **Alexis Arguello** in the first round but later went down for the count himself in the fifth round. Viloria said that Ganigan, who was also a Filipino-American nicknamed "Hawaiian Punch," taught him the importance of a good body shot. ■

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JUST THE BEGINNING?

By **Brian Harty**

On April 24, less than a month before his scheduled rematch against Amir Khan, Lamont Peterson posted the following on his Twitter account:

"Sorry I haven't been tweeting but I'm staying focus for the fight! Training is going gr8.....I feel like superman!!!"

The man-of-steel reference would prove to be ill-timed, as on May 8 it was announced that a urine sample supplied by Peterson to the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association (VADA) for testing had returned results "consistent with the administration of an anabolic steroid such as testosterone."

Things happened very quickly after the news broke.

From the direction of Khan supporters still irked by what they viewed as a home-cooked conspiracy in the first fight — a split-decision nod for Peterson in Washington, D.C., that cost Khan his IBF and WBA junior welterweight titles — one could almost hear the collective clatter of pitchforks coming down from their hooks.

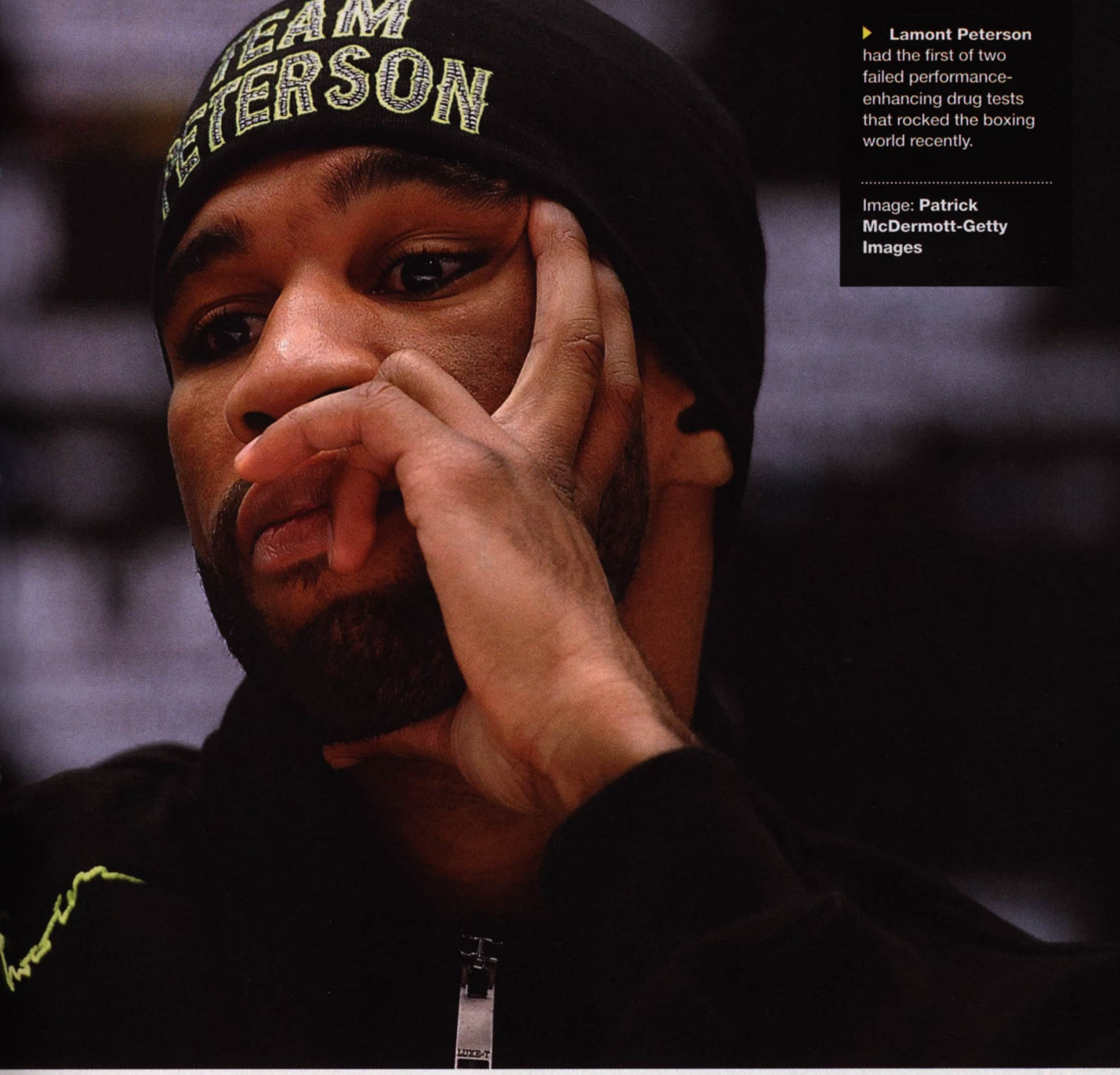
On Peterson's side, there was no Marion Jones-style plea of innocence. Instead, the admission came swiftly and with a sense of bafflement, along with medical explanations, character referrals and reminders that it was Peterson who wanted VADA involved in the first place. The centerpiece of the defense was a statement from Dr. John Thompson, of Las Vegas, who insisted that Peterson's' lab work, which the fighter had sought after complaining of dizziness and fatigue, showed abnormally low hormone levels. The doctor had surgically implanted a testosterone "pellet," which slowly releases a soy-derived version of the substance into a host's body, only to correct the imbalance and improve Peterson's overall health — not to give him any sort of edge back in December.

Cue sound of needle dragging across record.

Yes, it turned out that Peterson had received the pellet-planting procedure *before* his Dec. 10 win over Khan.

There were calls for records to be scrubbed clean. Old innuendos resurfaced. Hadn't Peterson seemed *unusually strong* in the first fight? For his part, Khan readily spoke to reporters on the subject, calling Peterson "a fake," "a fraud," and "a cheat."

Meanwhile, a different timeline was stoking the ire of Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer. Statements revealed that Peterson had been informed of his "A" sample testing positive on April 13 (11 days before the "superman" Tweet) and of his "B" sample — the one needed for an official doping violation — following suit on May 3, but Golden Boy wasn't notified until May 7. Schaefer demanded to know why VADA had not informed him of the test results earlier, when something could still be salvaged for the HBO broadcast. VADA, only in its second high-profile event since being founded by former ringside physician Dr. Margaret Goodman, claimed it had followed the confidentiality clauses in its contracts to the letter and that no obligation to inform Golden Boy or HBO existed. The



Lamont Peterson had the first of two failed performance-enhancing drug tests that rocked the boxing world recently.

Image: **Patrick McDermott-Getty Images**

matter was escorted by attorneys into a closed room soon afterward.

The fight was not salvaged. It was cancelled along with Adrien Broner vs. Gary Sykes and the May 19 plans of an unlucky horde of fans, many of them already holding plane tickets from England to Las Vegas.

Peterson continued to plead his case, saying the treatment was necessary and that he wasn't a cheater. But his attempts to justify a professional athlete failing to reveal testosterone therapy seemed increasingly overruled by talk of stripping his titles.

The trip had taken only a few days, but already Khan was headed for a replacement bout with Danny Garcia and Peterson had become the "bad apple" plucked from the bushel. The sport was better off than before.

But then, before boxing had time to catch its breath, it happened again. Andre Berto, slated for a rematch with Victor Ortiz on June 23, tested positive for trace amounts of an archaic (meaning popular in the 1990s) anabolic steroid called Nandrolone.

This time, VADA broke the news early and the card was salvaged. Chalk it up to the lessons learned over the previous week. But as new questions, new explanations, and new accusations arose, any sense of having glimpsed a conclusion slipped away.

This time, everyone knew that this was just the beginning. ■

BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ

SHANA TAYLOR

Height: 5-foot-4
Weight: 111 pounds
Measurements: 32-22-25
Stance: Orthodox
Reach: 24 inches
Favorite Boxer: Manny Pacquiao
Current Location: Las Vegas, NV
Where you've seen her: Showtime's *SHOBOX Vargas vs Tyner* as a ring girl for Corona, and many different events.
Booking Info: Shanataylorpromo@yahoo.com

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ** | IMAGES: **DAVE ALAN**

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Floyd Mayweather Jr. met with considerable resistance from **Miguel Cotto** but still won a one-sided decision.

Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH:

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

By **Michael Rosenthal**

Floyd Mayweather Jr. has demonstrated his remarkable boxing skills many times over the years. We've seen his underrated fighting spirit less often because he rarely has had the need to reveal it.

Against a determined Miguel Cotto on May 5 in Las Vegas, we got to see Mayweather near his best in both regards.

"Money" was the boxing wizard we're accustomed to seeing even if he has slowed down a tad at 35, which isn't a given. Cotto landed only 21 percent of his punches, according to CompuBox, a testament to Mayweather's celebrated defensive ability.

Still, the Puerto Rican's all-around ability and relentless pressure presented Mayweather and an appreciative crowd at the MGM Grand with a competitive fight in which both principals took punishment. Mayweather's bloody nose was evidence of that.

And, as we saw, Mayweather was up to the challenge. He outboxed Cotto as expected but also endured the physical hardship required to emerge with another clear victory, this one by a unanimous decision to take Cotto's WBA junior middleweight title — his eighth belt in five weight classes.

Mayweather (43-0, 26 knockouts) is very good. He's also tough. That's why he remains extremely difficult to beat more than 15 years after he turned professional. ■

POUND FOR POUND: Chad Dawson's victory over Bernard Hopkins and his strong resume was enough for the light heavyweight to take Yuriorkis Gamboa's spot at No. 10. Floyd Mayweather Jr. (No. 2 behind Manny Pacquiao last month) outpointed Miguel Cotto in a thrilling fight but didn't do enough to overtake Pacquiao. The decision was made to split the No. 2 spot between Mayweather and Pacquiao and leave No. 1 vacant until something definitive happens.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Kubrat Pulev (No. 9 last month) knocked out Alexander Dimitrenko (No. 4 at the time) in the 11th round to claim the No. 4 position. Dimitrenko fell from the list, leaving room for Tony Thompson to enter at No. 10.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: Marco Huck (No. 1 last month) and Ola Afolabi (No. 5 last month) fought to an entertaining draw in Germany. Huck held his position while Afolabi swapped places with Denis Lebedev (No. 4 last month).

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Dawson (No. 2 last month) won the rematch against Hopkins (Champion at the time) to win THE RING belt. Hopkins fell to the No. 1 position, displacing Jean Pascal. Ismayl Sillakh (No. 10 last month) lost his spot after being stopped by unrated Denis Grachev; he was replaced by Isaac Chilemba. Adrian Diaconu (No. 5 last month) left the ratings after announcing his retirement. Finally, Mikkel Kessler (No. 2 super middleweight last month) arrived at No. 9 with an emphatic KO of fellow light heavyweight newbie Allan Green.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Thomas Oosthuizen (No. 6 last month) switched spots with Sakio Bika (No. 5 last month) after easily outpointing unrated Marcus Johnson. Kessler's departure pulled everyone up a notch and created room for Edwin Rodriguez to debut at No. 10.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Felix Sturm (No. 2 last month) stopped Sebastian Zbik (No. 4 at the time) in nine rounds, good enough to take the No. 1 spot from Daniel Geale. Zbik fell to No. 10 and everyone shuffled accordingly. Hassan N'Dam N'Jikam (No. 7 last month) climbed to the No. 5 spot after an easy win over unrated Max Bursak.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Mayweather beat Cotto to take the No. 1 spot, pushing Cotto and everyone else down and Delvin Rodriguez (No. 10 last month) out.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Paulie Malignaggi (unrated last month) stunned many by going to Ukraine and stopping Vyacheslav Senchenko (No. 6 at the time) in nine rounds. He entered the ratings at No. 7 while Senchenko fell to No. 10, bumping Devon Alexander off the list.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Juan Manuel Marquez left his perch atop the lightweight ratings and entered here at No. 8 after outpointing unrated Sergei Fedchenko. That pushed Humberto Soto (No. 10 last month) out.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: Abner Mares (No. 2 bantamweight last month) outpointed Eric Morel (No. 5 bantamweight last month) to win the vacant WBC title and enter the ratings at No. 7 (pushing No. 10 Masaaki Serie off the list). Morel returned to bantamweight.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Yonnhy Perez (No. 6 last month) retired. Everyone below him moved up a notch and young Mexican Leo Santa Cruz entered at No. 10. After Mares' departure, everyone from No. 3 downward moved up again (except for Morel, who remained at No. 5). Hugo Ruiz filled the void at No. 10.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: Cesar Seda (No. 9 last month) dropped out because he hadn't fought at 115 pounds for more than a year. No. 10 Juan Carlos Sanchez moved up one rung to make room for Juan Alberto Rosas. Tomas Rojas (No. 7 last month) left the ratings after moving up in weight, and undefeated Mexican Carlos Cuadras entered at No. 10. Sanchez then moved up a notch after defeating Rosas, who dropped out.

FLYWEIGHTS: Julio Cesar Miranda (No. 7 last month) fell off the list after losing to junior bantamweight Rodel Mayol, while Juan Carlos Reveco climbed from No. 9 to No. 7 after a clear victory over then-unbeaten Karim Guerfi. Edgar Sosa entered at No. 10.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: Roman Gonzalez (No. 2 last month) took the No. 1 spot from Ulises Solis after stopping Ramon Garcia Hirales (No. 8 at the time). Hirales and Gilberto Keb Baas (No. 10 last month) dropped out; they were replaced by Luis Ceja at No. 9 and Ryoichi Taguchi at No. 10.

STRAWWEIGHTS: Denver Cuello (No. 7 last month) gained a rank after a second-round KO of unrated Ganigan Lopez.

▶ **Abner Mares** (right) outpointed **Eric Morel** to win the vacant WBC junior featherweight title and enter the 122-pound ratings at No. 7. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

- C **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO** Ukraine | 57-3-0 (50 KOs)
- 1. **VITALI KLITSCHKO** Ukraine | 44-2-0 (40 KOs)
- 2. **ALEXANDER POVETKIN** Russia | 24-0-0 (16 KOs)
- 3. **TOMASZ ADAMEK** Poland | 45-2-0 (28 KOs)
- 4. **KUBRAT PULEV** Bulgaria | 16-0-0 (8 KOs)
- 5. **ROBERT HELENIUS** Finland | 17-0-0 (11 KOs)
- 6. **DENIS BOYTSOV** Russia | 31-0-0 (25 KOs)
- 7. **RUSLAN CHAGAEV** Uzbekistan | 29-2-1 (18 KOs)
- 8. **CHRIS ARREOLA** U.S. | 35-2-0 (30 KOs)
- 9. **TYSON FURY** UK | 18-0-0 (13 KOs)
- 10. **TONY THOMPSON** U.S. | 36-2-0 (24 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

- C **YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ** Cuba | 26-1-0 (13 KOs)
- 1. **MARCO HUCK** Germany | 34-2-1 (25 KOs)
- 2. **KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK** Poland | 46-2-1 (33 KOs)
- 3. **STEVE CUNNINGHAM** U.S. | 24-4-0 (12 KOs)
- 4. **OLA AFOLABI** UK | 19-2-4 (9 KOs)
- 5. **DENIS LEBEDEV** Russia | 24-1-0 (18 KOs)
- 6. **ANTONIO TARVER** U.S. | 29-6-0 (20 KOs)
- 7. **GUILLERMO JONES** Panama | 38-3-2 (30 KOs)
- 8. **LATEEF KAYODE** Nigeria | 18-0-0 (14 KOs)
- 9. **GIACOBBE FRAGOMENI** Italy | 29-3-2 (12 KOs)
- 10. **MATEUSZ MASTERNAK** Poland | 26-0-0 (20 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

- C **CHAD DAWSON** U.S. | 31-1-0 (17 KOs)
- 1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** U.S. | 52-6-2 (32 KOs)
- 2. **JEAN PASCAL** Canada | 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
- 3. **TAVORIS CLOUD** U.S. | 24-0-0 (19 KOs)
- 4. **NATHAN CLEVERLY** UK | 24-0-0 (11 KOs)
- 5. **ZSOLT ERDEI** Hungary | 33-0-0 (18 KOs)
- 6. **GABRIEL CAMPILLO** Spain | 21-4-1 (8 KOs)
- 7. **BEIBUT SHUMENOV** Kazakhstan | 12-1-0 (8 KOs)
- 8. **KARO MURAT** Germany | 24-1-1 (14 KOs)
- 9. **MIKKEL KESSLER** Denmark | 45-2-0 (34 KOs)
- 10. **ISAAC CHILEMBA** Malawi | 19-1-1 (9 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

- C **ANDRE WARD** U.S. | 25-0-0 (13 KOs)
- 1. **LUCIAN BUTE** Romania | 30-0-0 (24 KOs)
- 2. **CARL FROCH** UK | 28-2-0 (20 KOs)
- 3. **ROBERT STIEGLITZ** Russia | 42-2-0 (23 KOs)
- 4. **THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN** South Africa | 19-0-1 (13 KOs)
- 5. **SAKIO BIKA** Cameroon | 29-5-2 (20 KOs)
- 6. **GEORGE GROVES** UK | 14-0-0 (11 KOs)
- 7. **GLEN JOHNSON** Jamaica | 51-16-2 (35 KOs)
- 8. **ANDRE DIRRELL** U.S. | 20-1-0 (14 KOs)
- 9. **ARTHUR ABRAHAM** Armenia | 34-3-0 (27 KOs)
- 10. **EDWIN RODRIGUEZ** Dominican Rep. | 21-0-0 (14 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
Argentina | 49-2-2 (28 KOs)

1. **FELIX STURM**
Germany | 37-2-2 (16 KOs)
2. **DANIEL GEALE**
Australia | 27-1-0 (15 KOs)
3. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.**
Mexico | 45-0-1 (31 KOs)
4. **DMITRY PIROG**
Russia | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
5. **HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM**
France | 27-0-0 (17 KOs)
6. **MATTHEW MACKLIN**
UK | 28-4-0 (19 KOs)
7. **MARTIN MURRAY**
UK | 23-0-1 (10 KOs)
8. **GENNADY GOLOVKIN**
Kazakhstan | 23-0-0 (20 KOs)
9. **GRZEGORZ PROKSA**
Poland | 26-1-0 (19 KOs)
10. **SEBASTIAN ZBIK**
Germany | 30-2-0 (10 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL COTTO**
Puerto Rico | 37-3-0 (30 KOs)
3. **SAUL ALVAREZ**
Mexico | 40-0-1 (29 KOs)
4. **VANES MARTIROSYAN**
U.S. | 32-0-0 (20 KOs)
5. **ERISLANDY LARA**
Cuba | 16-1-1 (11 KOs)
6. **CARLOS MOLINA**
Mexico | 19-5-2 (6 KOs)
7. **JAMES KIRKLAND**
U.S. | 31-1-0 (27 KOs)
8. **PAUL WILLIAMS**
U.S. | 41-2-0 (27 KOs)
9. **ALFREDO ANGULO**
Mexico | 20-2-0 (17 KOs)
10. **CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE**
U.S. | 31-4-0 (18 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines | 54-3-2 (38 KOs)
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
3. **VICTOR ORTIZ**
U.S. | 29-3-2 (22 KOs)
4. **ANDRE BERTO**
U.S. | 28-1-0 (22 KOs)
5. **KELL BROOK**
UK | 27-0-0 (18 KOs)
6. **MIKE JONES**
U.S. | 26-0-0 (19 KOs)
7. **PAULIE MALIGNAGGI**
U.S. | 31-4-0 (7 KOs)
8. **JAN ZAVECK**
Slovenia | 32-2-0 (18 KOs)
9. **SELCUK AYDIN**
Turkey | 23-0-0 (17 KOs)
10. **VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO**
Ukraine | 32-1-0 (21 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
U.S. | 28-0-0 (12 KOs)
2. **LAMONT PETERSON**
U.S. | 30-1-1 (15 KOs)
3. **AMIR KHAN**
UK | 26-2-0 (18 KOs)
4. **DANNY GARCIA**
U.S. | 23-0-0 (14 KOs)
5. **ZAB JUDAH**
U.S. | 42-7-0 (29 KOs)
6. **LUCAS MATTHYSSE**
Argentina | 30-2-0 (28 KOs)
7. **MIKE ALVARADO**
U.S. | 33-0-0 (23 KOs)
8. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs)
9. **MARCOS MAIDANA**
Argentina | 31-3-0 (28 KOs)
10. **ERIK MORALES**
Mexico | 52-8-0 (36 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANTONIO DEMARCO**
Mexico | 27-2-1 (20 KOs)
2. **MIGUEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico | 30-3-0 (13 KOs)
3. **RICKY BURNS**
UK | 34-2-0 (9 KOs)
4. **KEVIN MITCHELL**
UK | 33-1-0 (24 KOs)
5. **JOHN MURRAY**
UK | 31-2-0 (18 KOs)
6. **JOHN MOLINA**
U.S. | 23-1-0 (19 KOs)
7. **RICHARD ABRIL**
Cuba | 17-3-1 (8 KOs)
8. **HANK LUNDY**
U.S. 22-1-1 (11 KOs)
9. **GAVIN REES**
UK | 36-1-1 (17 KOs)
10. **SHARIF BOGERE**
Uganda | 22-0-0 (14 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **TAKASHI UCHIYAMA**
Japan | 18-0-0 (15 KOs)
2. **JUAN CARLOS SALGADO**
Mexico | 25-1-1 (16 KOs)
3. **ADRIEN BRONER**
U.S. 23-0-0 (19 KOs)
4. **TAKAHIRO AO**
Japan | 23-2-1 (10 KOs)
5. **ROMAN MARTINEZ**
Puerto Rico | 25-1-1 (16 KOs)
6. **DIEGO MAGDALENO**
U.S. | 22-0-0 (8 KOs)
7. **ARGENIS MENDEZ**
Dominican Rep. | 19-2-0 (10 KOs)
8. **JUAN CARLOS BURGOS**
Mexico | 29-1-0 (19 KOs)
9. **JORGE SOLIS**
Mexico | 40-4-2 (29 KOs)
10. **BRYAN VAZQUEZ**
Costa Rica | 28-0-0 (14 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **YURIORKIS GAMBOA**
Cuba | 21-0-0 (16 KOs)
2. **ORLANDO SALIDO**
Mexico | 38-11-2 (26 KOs)
3. **CHRIS JOHN**
Indonesia | 47-0-2 (22 KOs)
4. **JHONNY GONZALEZ**
Mexico | 52-7-0 (45 KOs)
5. **MIKEY GARCIA**
U.S. | 28-0-0 (24 KOs)
6. **BILL DIB**
Australia | 34-1-0 (21 KOs)
7. **JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ**
Puerto Rico | 31-2-0 (28 KOs)
8. **DANIEL PONCE DE LEON**
Mexico | 43-4-0 (35 KOs)
9. **CELESTINO CABALLERO**
Panama | 36-4-0 (23 KOs)
10. **HOZUMI HASEGAWA**
Japan | 30-4-0 (13 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan | 39-4-3 (24 KOs)
2. **GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX**
Cuba | 9-0-0 (7 KOs)
3. **NONITO DONAIRE**
Philippines | 28-1-0 (18 KOs))
4. **AKIFUMA SHIMODA**
Japan | 25-3-1 (11 KOs)
5. **P. KRATINGDAENGGYM**
Thailand | 46-2-0 (32 KOs)
6. **JEFFREY MATHEBULA**
South Africa | 26-3-2 (14 KOs)
7. **ABNER MARES**
U.S. | 24-0-1 (13 KOs)
8. **TAKALANI NDLOVU**
South Africa | 33-7-0 (18 KOs)
9. **STEVE MOLITOR**
Canada | 34-2-0 (12 KOs)
10. **RICO RAMOS**
U.S. | 20-1-0 (11 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings are compiled by the magazine's Editorial Board, with the participation of THE RING Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world. To see the complete list of our panelists, click on RATINGS at RingTV.com.

Records provided by boxrec.com

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
   Panama | 33-1-1 (12 KOs)
2. **JOSEPH AGBEKO**
   Ghana | 28-4-0 (22 KOs)
3. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
   Japan | 16-0-2 (11 KOs)
4. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   Japan | 28-1-0 (17 KOs)
5. **ERIC MOREL**
   U.S. | 46-3-0 (23 KOs)
6. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines | 30-2-3 (19 KOs)
7. **VIC DARCHINYAN**
   Armenia | 37-5-1 (27 KOs)
8. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico | 60-6-2 (46 KOs)
9. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
   Mexico | 19-0-1 (11 KOs)
10. **HUGO RUIZ**
    Mexico | 30-1-0 (27 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina | 36-1-2 (19 KOs)
2. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
   Thailand | 20-2-0 (13 KOs)
3. **HUGO CAZARES**
   Mexico | 36-7-2 (26 KOs)
4. **YOTA SATO**
   Japan | 24-2-1 (12 KOs)
5. **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI**
   Thailand | 20-5-1 (7 KOs)
6. **TOMONOBU SHIMIZU**
   Japan | 19-4-1 (9 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ**
   Mexico | 14-1-1 (7 KOs)
8. **NOBUO NASHIRO**
   Japan | 17-4-1 (11 KOs)
9. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
   Mexico | 24-0-0 (20 KOs)
10. **RODEL MAYOL**
    Philippines | 31-5-2 (22 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C **SONNY BOY JARO**
Philippines | 34-10-5 (24 KOs)

1. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 33-2-0 (25 KOs)
2. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   U.S. | 30-3-0 (17 KOs)
3. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   South Africa | 28-2-0 (19 KOs)
4. **MILAN MELINDO**
   Philippines | 26-0-0 (10 KOs)
5. **P. WONJONGKAM**
   Thailand | 83-4-2 (44 KOs)
6. **ROCKY FUENTES**
   Philippines | 33-6-2 (20 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
   Argentina | 28-1-0 (16 KOs)
8. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
   Panama | 24-3-0 (19 KOs)
9. **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
   Japan | 15-1-1 (10 KOs)
10. **EDGAR SOSA**
    Mexico | 45-7-0 (27 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   Nicaragua | 32-0-0 (27 KOs)
2. **ULISES SOLIS**
   Mexico | 34-2-3 (21 KOs)
3. **DONNIE NIETES**
   Philippines | 29-1-3 (16 KOs)
4. **K. PORPRAMOOK**
   Thailand | 45-3-0 (30 KOs)
5. **MASAYUKI KURODA**
   Japan | 21-3-1 (13 KOs)
6. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
   Mexico | 22-2-1 (14 KOs)
7. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
   Japan | 16-0-3 (10 KOs)
8. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
   Philippines | 16-2-0 (10 KOs)
9. **LUIS CEJA**
   Mexico | 22-1-3 (18 KOs)
10. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
    Japan | 16-1-1 (7 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
   South Africa | 22-0-0 (15 KOs)
2. **KAZUTO IOKA**
   Japan | 9-0-0 (6 KOs)
3. **MOISES FUENTES**
   Mexico | 14-1-0 (6 KOs)
4. **RAUL GARCIA**
   Mexico | 32-2-1 (20 KOs)
5. **JUAN PALACIOS**
   Nicaragua | 29-3-0 (22 KOs)
6. **DENVER CUELLO**
   Philippines | 31-4-6 (21 KOs)
7. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
   Thailand | 22-0-0 (7 KOs)
8. **FLORANTE CONDES**
   Philippines | 25-6-1 (21 KOs)
9. **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
   Japan | 15-2-0 (8 KOs)
10. **KATSUNARI TAKAYAMA**
    Japan | 24-5-0 (10 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines | 54-3-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
2. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR**
   U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
3. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
   Argentina | 49-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
4. **NONITO DONAIRE**
   Philippines | 28-1-0 (18 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT
5. **ANDRE WARD**
   U.S. | 25-0-0 (13 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 54-6-1 (39 KOs) | JR. WELTERWEIGHT
7. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
   Ukraine | 57-3-0 (50 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
8. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
   U.S. | 28-0-0 (12 KOs) | JR. WELTERWEIGHT
9. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
   Ukraine | 44-2-0 (40 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
10. **CHAD DAWSON**
    U.S. | 31-1-0 (17 KOs) | LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT

Image: Naoki Fukuda

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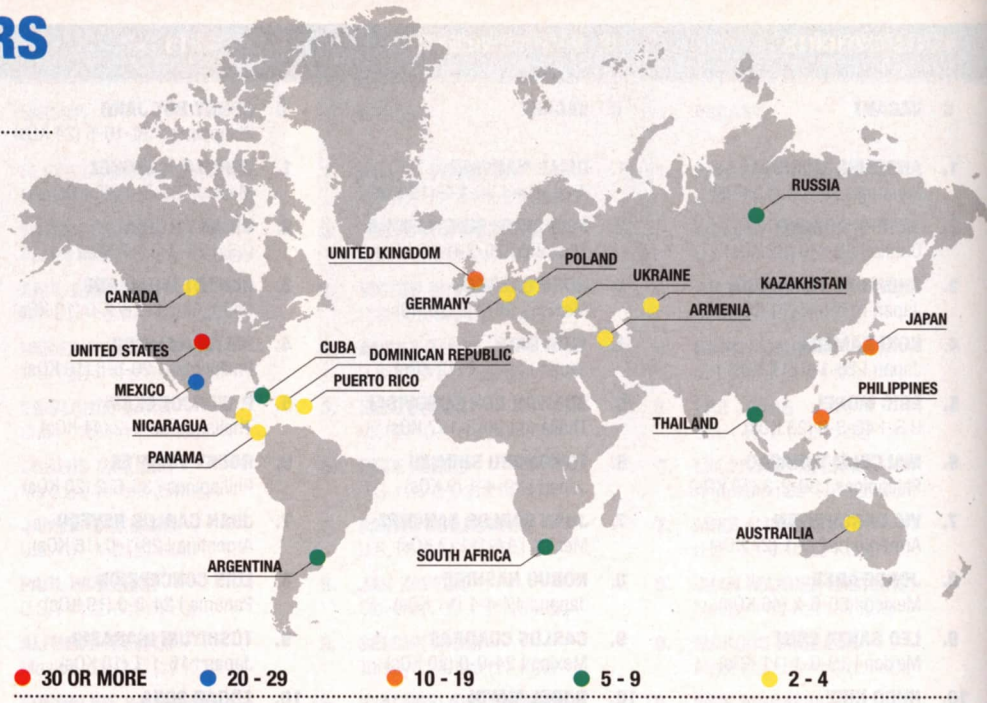
Image: Naoki Fukuda

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

UNITED STATES	33*
MEXICO	27
JAPAN	17
UNITED KINGDOM	13
PHILIPPINES	11
THAILAND	6
ARGENTINA	5
CUBA	5
RUSSIA	5
SOUTH AFRICA	5
GERMANY	4
PANAMA	4
POLAND	4
UKRAINE	3
PUERTO RICO	3
ARMENIA	2
AUSTRALIA	2
CANADA	2
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2
KAZAKHSTAN	2
NICARAGUA	2
ROMANIA	1
BULGARIA	1
CAMEROON	1
COSTA RICA	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	1
GHANA	1
HUNGARY	1
INDONESIA	1
ITALY	1
JAMAICA	1
NIGERIA	1
SLOVENIA	1
SPAIN	1
TURKEY	1
UGANDA	1
UZBEKISTAN	1

Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight, welterweight)



GREAT BRITAIN VS. COLONIES

THE NUMBER OF BRITISH BOXERS RATED BY THE RING PALES NEXT TO THE TOTAL OF GREAT BRITAIN'S FORMER COLONIES WHEN THE U.S. IS INCLUDED, 48-13. HOWEVER, REMOVE THE U.S. AND IT'S A TIGHT RACE. THE FORMER COLONIES REPRESENTED IN THE LIST BELOW ARE AUSTRALIA, CANADA, CAMEROON, GHANA, JAMAICA, MALAWI, NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.

DIVISION	G.B.	COLONIES
HEAVYWEIGHT	1	0
CRUSIERWEIGHT	1	1
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	1	2
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	2	3
MIDDLEWEIGHT	2	1
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	0	0
WELTERWEIGHT	1	0
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	1	0
LIGHTWEIGHT	4	1
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	0	0
FEATHERWEIGHT	0	1
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	0	3
BANTAMWEIGHT	0	1
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	0	0
FLYWEIGHT	0	1
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT	0	0
STRAWWEIGHT	0	1
TOTAL	13	15

CRADLES OF BOXING

THE STATES OR COUNTRIES IN WHICH THE 32 RING-RATED AMERICAN BOXERS WERE BORN

7	CALIFORNIA
5	PENNSYLVANIA
3	FLORIDA
3	MICHIGAN
2	NEW YORK
1	ARMENIA
1	COLORADO
1	GEORGIA (U.S.)
1	HAWAII
1	KANSAS
1	MARYLAND
1	MEXICO
1	OHIO
1	PUERTO RICO
1	SOUTH CAROLINA
1	TEXAS
1	WASHINGTON, D.C.

***NOTE:** The country of fighters who have spent large portions of their lives in two countries was determined primarily by where they spent the bulk of their childhood.*

OLD SCHOOL 8

Many hardcore boxing fans are the nostalgic type. We reminisce about the good ol' days, when men were men and everyone knew who the champions were. In that spirit, we initiated this new feature in which THE RING staffers — Michael Rosenthal, Doug Fischer and Lem Satterfield — and a different guest each month provide their current champions in the original eight weight classes.

Back in the day, anyone heavier than 175 pounds had to fight as a heavyweight, fighters over the middleweight limit of 160 had to fight as light heavyweights, those heavier than 147 fought as middleweights and so on. That's how it works in our new feature. Our guest this month is former titleholder and TV analyst Raul Marquez.

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: ANTONIO DEMARCO
FEATHERWEIGHT: YURIORKIS GAMBOA
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: YURIORKIS GAMBOA
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: SERGIO MARTINEZ
WELTERWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER
LIGHTWEIGHT: MIGUEL VAZQUEZ
FEATHERWEIGHT: YURIORKIS GAMBOA
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: BRIAN VILORIA

RAUL MARQUEZ
FORMER TITLEHOLDER / TV ANALYST

HEAVYWEIGHT: WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT: ANDRE WARD
MIDDLEWEIGHT: FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
WELTERWEIGHT: MANNY PACQUIAO
LIGHTWEIGHT: ANTONIO DEMARCO
FEATHERWEIGHT: YURIORKIS GAMBOA
BANTAMWEIGHT: ANSELMO MORENO
FLYWEIGHT: ROMAN GONZALEZ

NOTE: *THESE LISTS WERE COMPILED THROUGH FIGHTS OF MAY 14.*

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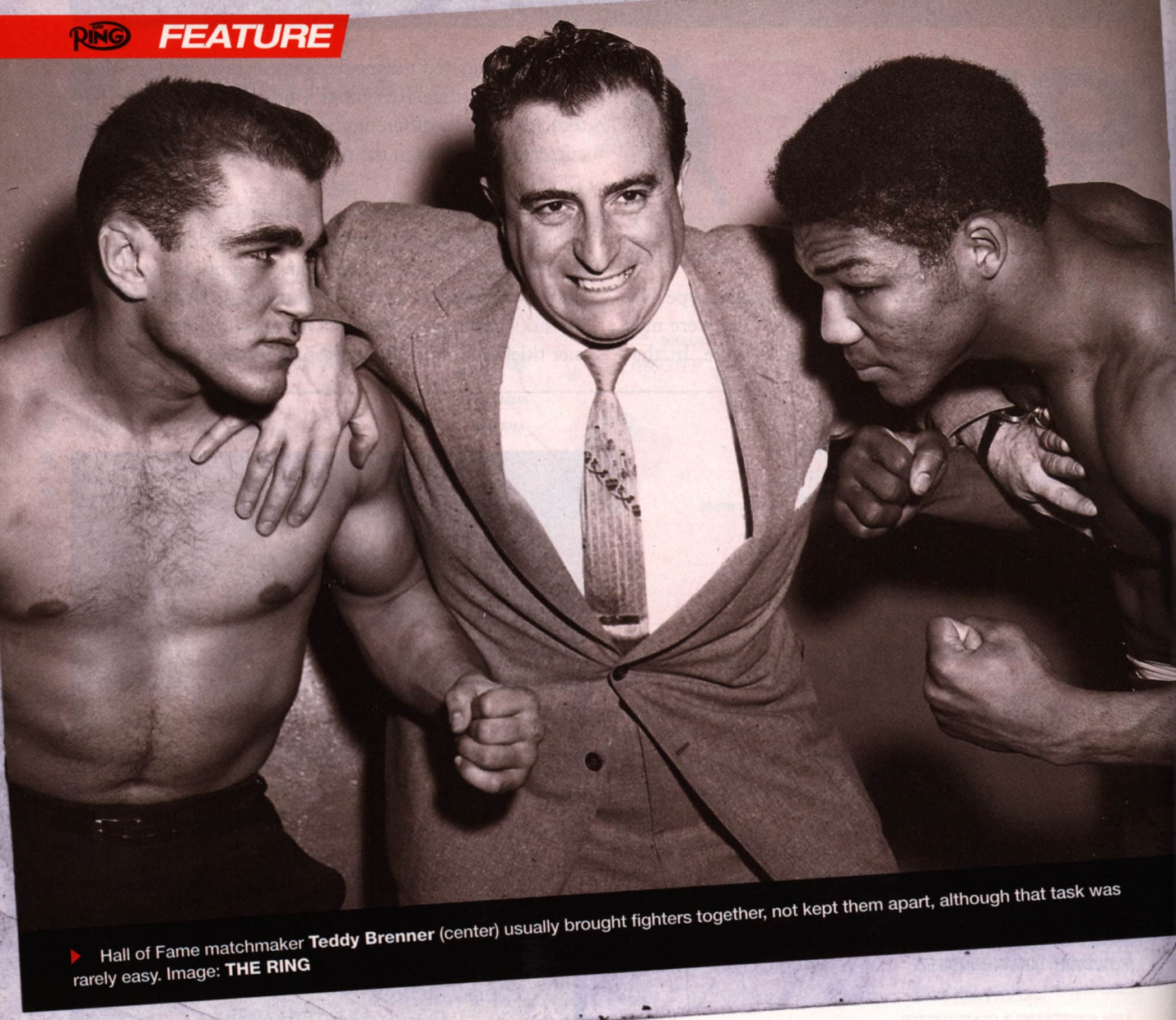


Hall of Fame matchmaker **Teddy Brenner** (center) usually brought fighters together, not kept them apart, although that task was rarely easy. Image: **THE RING**

SO YOU WANT TO BE A MATCHMAKER?

THE TOUGHEST JOB IN BOXING OUTSIDE THE RING ISN'T FOR THE FAINT HEARTED

By **Bart Barry**

It's a Tuesday morning in Virginia, fifth month of 1994, and the opponent for a popular local fighter just fell out.

"We had an Ethiopian boxer on there from Washington, D.C.," says matchmaker Eric Bottjer. "Real nice guy. Terrible fighter. But he sold hundreds of tickets. I was running the promotion for these guys that had a picture-framing shop in Arlington, and they had a kid from Colombia. A janitor. Very good-looking kid, real handsome kid. He was literally mopping the floor for the weigh-in."

A janitor who could box. A boxer who did custodial work. Who had time to discern?

"So they said, 'Hey, why don't you see if Sandro ...,'" says Bottjer. "That's his name. Sandro Cossio. I still remember his name. I offered him $400. Sandro goes, 'Yeah, I'll fight that guy tonight.'

"And Doug Beavers, the commissioner, started laughing. He goes, 'That guy's a janitor, I saw him mopping the floor this morning.' So I said, 'Doug, what do you want me to do?' So he let the fight go, and the kid went four rounds and lost a decision. It was amazing."

Those are the workaday happenings of matchmakers, men whose craft is often said to be the toughest in boxing that does not include being struck in the face. Theirs is the job that requires a perceptive quality different from those who fixate on the quantifiable — records and purses and live gates. They compose a colorful, decent lot with poetic souls. Matchmakers must examine the fabric of athletes and see tensile fibers others miss, or stripped threads others willfully overlook.

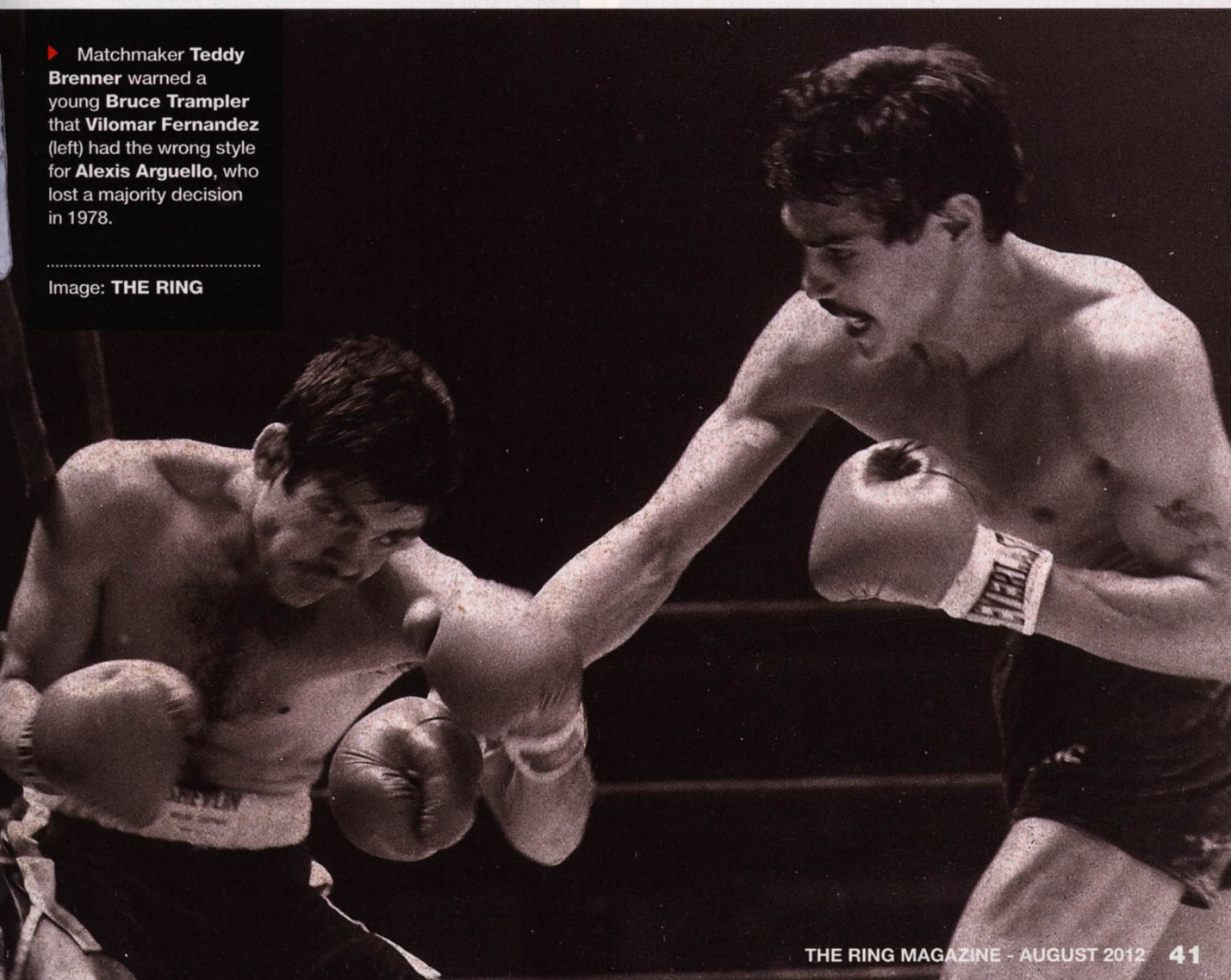
They come from disparate backgrounds. New York matchmaker Ron Katz learned "by process of osmosis back in the early '70s." Californian Tom Brown "married into" the craft. Mike Marchionte started as a gym owner in Rhode Island. Bottjer was a crime reporter for a daily periodical. Wayne Harrison, a Texas matchmaker with a résumé that includes 600 shows, was pursuing a graduate degree in government economics when he began. And Chicago matchmaker Jerry Alfano was driving a cement truck.

None of them yet knew the depths of their affliction by what Pennsylvania matchmaker Don Elbaum calls "a beautiful sickness."

Elbaum's is a name that comes up frequently when matchmakers are asked to list their influences, the men they admired while learning the craft. Other names are just as familiar: the late Teddy Brenner, Top Rank's Bruce Trampler and Southern California's Don Chargin.

"I'll tell you what happened one time at the Olympic Auditorium," says Chargin, who, in his 84th year, still makes matches and swims daily. "Jerry Quarry's dad had a fighter named Tex Henderson — from Texas, naturally. We had him in the main event. And at the time for the fighters to show up, no Tex Henderson. We were going crazy. We're on local television.

"I saw a fighter that had lost a six-round fight the week before sitting in the audience. I went up to him, and I said, 'You've got to do me a favor.' He said, 'How much?' It was quite a bit more than he'd ever made. And he said, 'But I don't have my stuff. I don't have



Matchmaker **Teddy Brenner** warned a young **Bruce Trampler** that **Vilomar Fernandez** (left) had the wrong style for **Alexis Arguello**, who lost a majority decision in 1978.

Image: **THE RING**

my shoes, cup, anything; I've just come to watch the fights.' And I said, 'Come on back in the dressing room, we'll get you set.' We got him all outfitted. He went out — he'd lost a six the week before! — and he won the 10-round main event.

"And Tex Henderson comes wandering in about the fifth round of the fight. He'd overslept."

That sort of thing doesn't happen much anymore. Under the auspices of increasing fighter safety — the noblest goal — a regulatory burden on matchmakers has steadily grown in the last 20 years. Along with an ever-draining pool of fighters from which to choose, this regulatory burden is routinely cited by matchmakers.

"I think the game is so overregulated," says Elbaum.

Alfano concurs, saying, "The big reason there's way less cards is regulations and fees."

Alfano picks the example of an out-of-state kid brought into Illinois for a four-round fight. The purse starts at $800. Then the fees begin: $100 for a license, $100 for blood tests, $50 to $75 for a physical, $50 for cornermen.

"Now he's about $400 out," says Alfano. "And has to pay taxes on that."

And an out-of-town kid filling a four-round slot is not part of the fabled 1 percent.

"These guys have nothing," says Alfano. "First question when they get here is, 'When can I get my food money?'"

The farther west one moves, though, the more some regulations become welcome. Nowhere are they more welcome than Colorado, home of boxing's most-colorful matchmaker, Jim Smith, who recalls a time, not long ago, when his state had no commission.

"You could get away with anything here," says Smith, who often participated in the fights he made in the '70s, '80s and '90s. "I could turn around and make a match with you and say, 'How old are you?' 'I'm 35.' 'Well, I'm 20.' 'How much do you weigh?' 'I'm 200.' 'Well, I'm 179.' 'That's close enough; I'll give you the years, you give me the weight.' Fight's on! No insurance. No doctors. You could gamble in the audience among friends, it is alleged.

"You had to be a tough son of a bitch, but you could get away with anything."

And the Marquess of Queensberry rarely attended.

"There was amateur fights, there was bar fights, there was the old tough-man competitions, there was even tag-team boxing," says Smith. "There were no regulations to break."

Things are done a bit differently out west. Ask Arizona matchmaker Roger Woods.

"It was when (Hector) Camacho Jr. fought," says Woods, recalling a 2005 card in Tucson that featured father and son. "Oh, that turned into a fiasco, there."

▶ Matchmakers are generally a versatile lot. Here, **Ron Katz** works as a ring announcer. Image: **THE RING**

It began at the weigh-in.

"They switched the opponents around," says Woods. "Junior was too heavy, so we switched opponents, and it actually worked out for Senior."

Except that Camacho Sr.'s new opponent, brought in on short notice from Kansas, didn't trust the purse situation enough to accept a check.

"They had the arena full, they had 6,000 people there," says Woods. "They say, 'It's all got to be cash.' 'OK.' 'I want half now.' Then they had to run and get five grand. 'OK, here's the five grand.' 'Well, I want to count it.' 'OK, count it real quick.' This is all going on before the fight. It's crazy."

It got crazier in the main event with Camacho Sr.

"It was nothing but a brawl," says Woods. "Camacho starts turning him around, humping him in the back. Then he knocks him down, starts humping over at (Julio Cesar) Chavez," who was in the audience. "He's talking shit to Chavez."

The fight ended, and mayhem presided.

"People are jumping over me, going on the table, getting in the ring," says Woods. "It was actually kind of funny. That was on very short notice, too."

At some fundamental level, matchmaking is about salesmanship. Occasionally, a fighter is reluctant to take a match for good reason, and other times he's simply reluctant.

"If a guy's going to fight, I'll tell him, 'This is a winnable fight. Is this what you want to do for a living? These are the kind of fights you have to take,'" says Katz. "I had a streak – we did three shows a month in Atlantic City – I had a stretch of like five, six weeks in a row when my main event fell out on, like, days' notice, and every replacement that came in won the fight. And these are main-event fights."

Fighters must sometimes be sold on taking fights. So, too, must television networks.

"Monroe Brooks and Bruce Curry," says Chargin. "They were first cousins. I was at Bob Arum's second wedding in New York, and a fellow from CBS was there and was talking to a bunch of us, and says, 'I want a fight where they genuinely do not like each other.' So I said, 'Hey, I've got one, and with a little more spice: They're first cousins, and they used to live together. Now they can't stand each other. And they both want to fight.'

Don Chargin said to be a successful matchmaker "you need to learn to suffer." Image: **THE RING**

A matchmaker can only sit at ringside — as **Teddy Brenner** (third from right) does here — and hope that things work out once his work is done.

Image: **THE RING**

Matchmaker **Eric Bottjer** (left, with **Robert Linton**) will tell you that a fighter who makes weight makes his job a lot easier.

Image: **THE RING**

"We put it on CBS. And, oh my God, what a fight."

If matchmakers have a credo, it is this: No fighter is too good to be beat.

"I can tell you how you can win, and I can tell you how you can lose," says Elbaum. "I don't care how good you are."

Trampler punctuates this credo with an example from his days as Brenner's assistant at Madison Square Garden, where the mandate was to make the best fights possible, regardless of outcome.

"Teddy knew I loved Alexis Arguello," Trampler says. "And I said, 'Teddy, this guy is great; he can't be beat.' And Teddy says, 'Never say that. In fact, you're going to get him beat in his next fight.'

"I said, 'What?' He says, 'I want you to get a hold of Vilomar Fernandez's manager.' And I said, 'Alexis isn't going to lose to Vilomar.' And he said, 'Styles.' He said, 'You can cry to me the next day, but you're getting Alexis Arguello beat.' And sure enough ..."

That was with a ready opponent on full notice in New York City. In states like Washington, though, short-notice fighters must be found in unlikelier places.

"One time, we had a real good prospect, and his (opponent) failed the medical, so we're now on our

way to the arena and this kid who everyone has come to see doesn't have a fight," says matchmaker DiTusa about a card in Spokane. "And I'm in the cab talking, and the cabdriver overhears me and says, 'Hey, my cousin's a fighter.'

"An hour later, his cousin drives 80 miles down, and we do an emergency license. We already had his medicals in, because he was an MMA fighter, too. We sell this fight."

Sounds like fun, right? Hanging around fighters, making quick decisions and events that please aficionados. The landscape may have changed for the worse over the years, but still, how bad can it be?

"MATCHMAKING IS A NASTY, HIGH-PRESSURE JOB WITH LITTLE REWARD."

– JERRY ALFANO

Some advice for a young matchmaker, then:

"Find another job," says Ron Katz.

"Get out of it," says Tom Brown.

"Get a job," says Don Elbaum.

"Go get a 9-5 job," says Sam DiTusa.

"You have to learn to suffer," says Don Chargin. "The fighters can break your heart."

"Matchmaking is a nasty, high-pressure job with little reward," says Jerry Alfano.

"Take up water polo," says Jim Smith.

The advent of the Internet has further complicated matchmaking.

"YouTube is tough because the guys do go on there and they do watch," says Bottjer. "Lots of fighters that are putting the fights on there, they're putting the fights where they look very good. So that's what the opponent is seeing."

One popular site has helped make matches by showing fighters the anatomy of their opponents' records. Another has made an already tough job tougher.

"BoxRec(.com) has absolutely been a godsend, but YouTube has hurt us," says Sam DiTusa. "Guys that I have anything to do with, I tell them, 'If I see anything of yours on YouTube, there's an issue with us.' Whatever happened to flying low?"

Then there are the agents and advisors who split purses.

"There's a load of guys who think they're agents, and they're just guys with phone numbers," says Alfano. "I've had so-called agents call me up and offer me my own fighters."

But matchmaking, when done by professionals, remains a craft of dedicated artisans who compose a supportive network that openly celebrates its camaraderie.

"We all have a sort of sixth sense for what we do, a form of intuition," says Brown.

"It's a gift," agrees Marchionte.

"If I have an opening four and it's a hell of a fight, it makes me feel good," says Elbaum. "Those cheers are for me also."

"A great match is a work of art performed on a different kind of canvas," says Harrison.

These are openly intuitive, talented men. And essential. Or, as DiTusa puts it, "Matchmakers are the heart and soul of the game." ■

Flyweight **Rau'shee Warren** is a three-time Olympian and a medal hopeful for the U.S. team at the London Games. Opening Ceremonies are July 27 at the Olympic Stadium (pictured, right). Images: **Joe Klamar-AFP-Getty Images / Julian Finney-Getty**

THE TRANSITION GAMES

OLYMPIC BOXING HOPES TO TURN A CORNER IN THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE SPORT AS WE KNOW IT

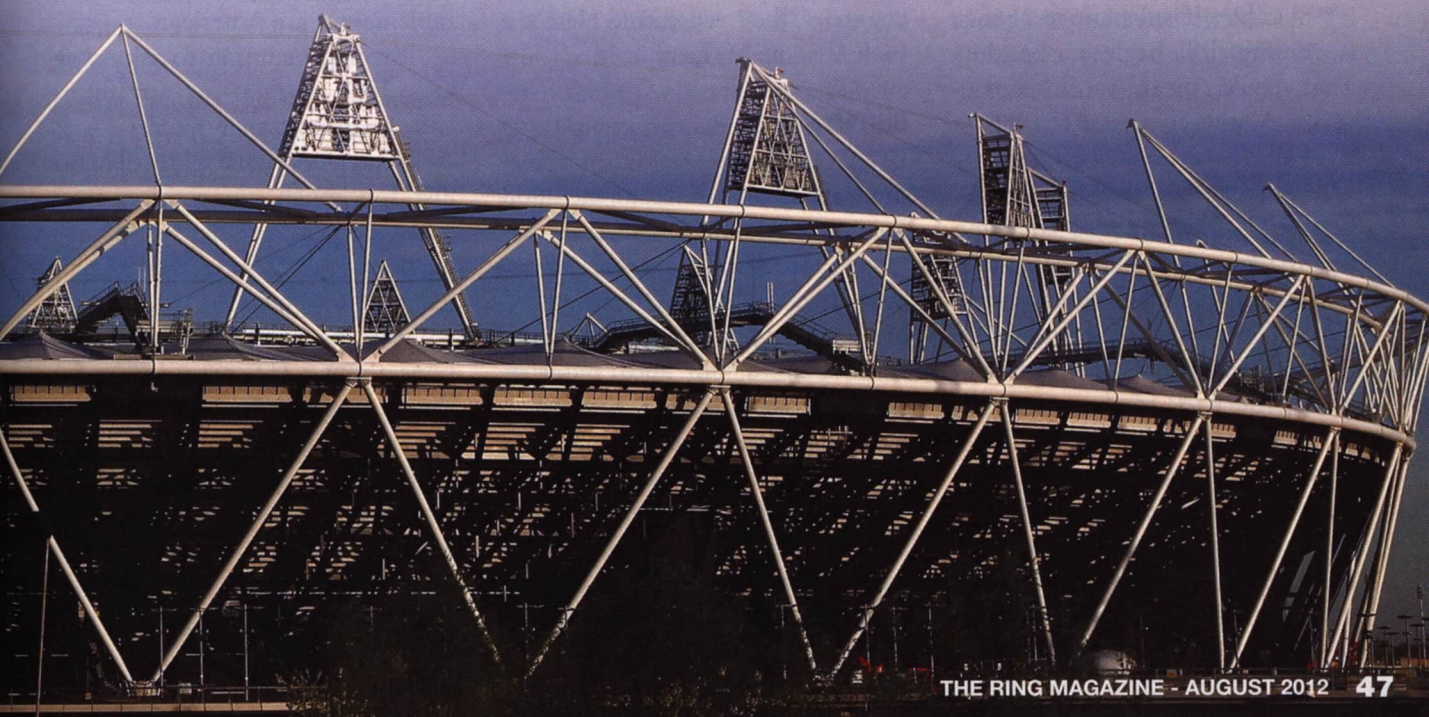
By **Norm Frauenheim**

The London Olympics are the Transition Games for boxing, which returns to its Marquess of Queensberry roots before it tries to go back to the future in 2016 at Rio de Janeiro with traditional scorecards instead of computer scoring in a break from a controversial era defined by a Cuban emergence and an American decline.

At the intersection of where it's been and where it's going, bouts from July 28 through August 12 at London's ExCel Exhibition Centre will provide more than just gold, silver and bronze. There will also be a look at how Olympic boxing hopes to regain relevance. It's still not clear whether that means boxing will join basketball's billionaires, soccer's millionaires, Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps in the Olympic pursuit of money with pros instead of amateurs. That's on the table, put there by the International Amateur Boxing Association during U.S. Trials last August.

But the reality might prove to be something else altogether. Oscar De La Hoya, a gold medalist in 1992 and a major promoter today, would be happy if the Olympics just regained its footing as a significant step toward the pros with a scoring system that allows amateurs to develop their craft while introducing themselves to a larger audience that will follow their subsequent careers.

Olympic boxing was at its relevant best for the legends it produced, including a 1960 gold medalist named Cassius Clay who became Muhammad Ali and a 1976 gold medalist named Ray Leonard who became another Sugar Ray. Both Olympic boxing and the pro business thrived in those days. It's anybody's guess whether they can again.



Jose Ramirez (right) was one of six Americans who reached the Olympics in the final qualifying tournament in May in Rio de Janeiro. Image: **AIBA**

At the Transition Games, however, there's a chance to see whether it's possible. If substantive change is coming, it'll begin in London. That could mean more controversy. With computer-scoring a lame duck, boxing is in jeopardy of becoming even more irrelevant. If officials have decided to dump the system, why take it seriously? Expect arguments about the scoring, and expect some second guessing about whether officials should have gone back to the scorecards in London instead of postponing it until 2016. But also look for some fighters to become more aggressive in pursuit of decisive victories with power and stoppages instead of just punches at a high rate.

If Olympic boxing is recreating itself, so too are the fighters and the countries they represent. Here's a look at some of them:

UNITED STATES

Given America's single medal, Deontay Wilder's bronze, at the 2008 Beijing Games, this might be an unlikely place to start. But the importance of the U.S. to Olympic boxing is hard to understate; it's what Detroit is to the auto industry. Motown is making a comeback. Maybe American boxers will, too. Despite a decline which reached an all-time low in Beijing, the U.S. still stands atop the all-time medal count with 109. From the former Cassius Clay in Rome to 2004 gold medalist Andre Ward in Athens, most of Olympic boxing's memorable names are American.

It would be unfair to ask America's 2012 team — or any future U.S. team, for that matter — to recapture long-gone glory. There's just too much competition from other corners of the world, and we're not just talking about Cuba. More on that later.

Still, it's hard to make projections about a U.S. team led by flyweight Rau'shee Warren, America's first three-time Olympian. There's optimism. The U.S. qualified in nine of the 10 weight classes, one fewer than the 11 divisions at Beijing. The Americans, who added six boxers to the London team at a fi-

nal qualifying tournament in May in Brazil, won't be represented at only one weight, light-fly.

The good news is that the U.S. will arrive in London with nine chances to medal. The bad news is that the U.S. landed in Beijing with nine and left with only Wilder's bronze. Another bad sign was the World Championships last fall in Azerbaijan. Three years after Beijing, there was no improvement. The U.S. came home with a single medal, bronze, won by Warren.

More problematic is a coaching change. Joe Zanders, the American head coach at the Trials last August in Mobile, is out. In April, USA Boxing nominated Basheer Abdullah to replace Zanders. The change included questions about Hall of Fame trainer Freddie Roach's involvement. In 2011, Roach agreed to be an unpaid consultant for the U.S. team. He worked with several of the Americans, including Warren, at his Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, Calif., after the U.S. Trials. Roach also traveled to Azerbaijan last fall for the World Amateur Championships.

But there were questions about whether Zanders was comfortable with Roach's role. Roach's busy schedule with Manny Pacquiao, Amir Khan and Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. also limited the time he would have for the U.S. team. Two months before the opening ceremonies in London, USA Boxing was scrambling to re-define Roach's role on a coaching staff that it expected would be led Abdullah, an Army staff sergeant and the coach of the 2004 U.S. team.

In the wake of the coaching shuffle, there's potential turmoil and subsequent uncertainty. The impact on the 2012 Americans? Hard to say. The only given is that it's not new, at least not to Warren, who has seen it and endured it. In 2008, Warren, a medal favorite, lost his first bout to South Korean Lee Oksung under bizarre circumstances. During a timeout in the third round, Warren thought he was leading. He stood in a neutral corner, ignored the U.S. coaches and instead looked into the stands at his personal coach and friends. They told him to move. He did, thinking he would win if he didn't get hit. Warren lost 9-8.

That moment, many said, summed up a dysfunctional relationship between boxers and the official coaching staff led by Dan Campbell, who battled personal coaches, often a dad or a brother or an uncle. One American, light-flyweight Luis Yanez, left the team's 2008 training camp and went to his high-school graduation. A reported six of the nine threatened to walk.

Warren's experience might serve as an important advantage, perhaps as an example to his 2012 teammates and probably for his own chances at gold he has sought since 2004. If Warren can finally fight his way to the top of a medal stand that must have looked impossibly remote in 2008, he could become a resilient symbol of an American rebirth. But the challenge is daunting in a division that includes 2011 world champion Misha Aloyan of Russia and Britain's Andrew Selby, the 2011 runner-up who will be at home fighting for the Queen and the Union Jack.

Vasyl Lomachenko, winner of the Val Barker Trophy for being the most outstanding boxer at the 2008 Games, leads a strong Ukrainian team in London. Image: **Nick Laham-Getty Images**

CUBA VS. UKRAINE

If there's a rivalry in the chase for the most medals, it figures to be between the Cubans and Ukrainians. Signs of it were evident at the 2011 World Championships in Azerbaijan. The Ukrainians sat on top of the medal table with five total, four gold and one silver. The Cubans were second with three medals, two gold and one silver.

The Ukrainian presence in Olympic boxing isn't new. Wladimir Klitschko, the world's best heavyweight today, won gold at the 1996 Atlanta Games. The Ukrainians have history, but not the numbers. All-time, Ukraine ranks 26th, tied with Italy, with nine medals — two gold, two silver and five bronze. But the Ukrainian tradition is just developing. They weren't even included in the medal count until 1996. Before then, Ukrainians were part of the Soviet Union. Their medals were counted for the Soviet Bloc.

But the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990, giving Ukraine independence and eventually its own Olympic identity. Ukrainians are beginning to look like a threat to the Cubans in much the same way that Cuba supplanted U.S. dominance, especially in 1992. In Barcelona, the Cubans won eight medals — six gold and two silver.

The Cubans, *the* Olympic boxing franchise for more than two decades, now are fighting to reassert themselves after a frustrating absence from the victory stand's top pedestal in 2008. Excluding the Cuban boycott in 1984 and 1988, they failed to win gold for the first time since 1968. They won eight medals, four silver and four bronze, in Beijing amid complaints about scoring that some said favored Asian fighters.

Only the Brits will be at home, which means that London should be Switzerland-neutral for the looming Ukraine-Cuba rivalry. The Ukrainians have gold-medal favorites in 2008 lightweight gold-medalist Vasyl Lomachenko, welterweight Taras Shelestyuk, middleweight Evhen Kyrtov and heavyweight Oleksandr Usyk.

Lomachenko, winner of the Val Barker Trophy for being the most outstanding boxer at the 2008 Games, is more than an Olympic star. He's considered a pro prospect. At 23, he might have the best chance at carrying on the Klitschko tradition. Depending on a draw that determines brackets for each weight class, a Cuban-Ukrainian rematch might prove to be one of the intriguing bouts in London. Lomachenko knocked down left-hander Yasniel Toledo in the first rounds and went on to beat the Cuban for the lightweight gold at the 2011 World Championships.

The Cubans have at least two gold-medal favorites, bantamweight Lazaro Alvarez and light-heavyweight Julio Cesar la Cruz. Both won in Azerbaijan. Alvarez has the look of an emerging star. At 21, he exploded onto the international scene with a 14-10 decision over Britain's Luke Campbell. A rematch would be intriguing, in large part because Alvarez would probably encounter a hostile crowd.

Cuba's other gold-medal contender, light-welterweight RonieI Iglesias, was considered a leading pro prospect a couple of years ago. Luis De Cubas Jr., who manages former Cuban Olympian Erislandy Lara among others, says Iglesias could beat 20-year-old pro Jose Benavidez Jr., America's leading prospect at 140 pounds, if the two fought now. However, Iglesias has struggled since winning a bronze medal in Beijing. He lost an early bout at the World Championships and finally qualified for London in Brazil, his last chance at a second Olympics.

Shiming Zou of China returns after winning a gold medal in 2008 in Beijing. Image: **Joe Klamar-AFP-Getty Images**

CHINA

At home four years ago, the Chinese emerged as a power, winning four medals — two gold, one silver and a bronze — second only to Cuba's eight. It was in the gold column that China made it biggest impact. The Chinese tied for first with Russia. There's some doubt about whether China can pull of an encore, especially in the gold commodity, half-a-world away from Workers Stadium in downtown Beijing.

Still, the Chinese have one of the projected stars in Shiming Zou, a light-flyweight who hasn't lost a bout since 2007. Zou's emergence is a compelling story, especially in China where Chairman Mao once outlawed the sport. Zou has overcome perceptions, an absence of any boxing tradition and all challengers with a combination of speed and some surprising flamboyance.

Zou, who is expected to turn pro under Dino Duva's management,

British super heavyweight **Anthony Joshua** (left, against Germany's **Erik Pfeifer** in the World Championships) has emerged as a fan favorite. Image: **David Mdzinarishvili-Reuters**

was China's first boxing medalist, winning bronze at the 2004 Athens Games. Then in Beijing, he won gold, a fashionable match for his flashy shoes. In London, he faces some intriguing challenges, especially if he meets Ireland's Paddy Barnes, who figures to attract a noisy crowd to London. In Beijing, Zou beat Barnes by a strange score. It was 15-0, which means Barnes didn't land a punch. It's fair to say that Barnes plans to land those that the computer missed in 2008 and add a few more.

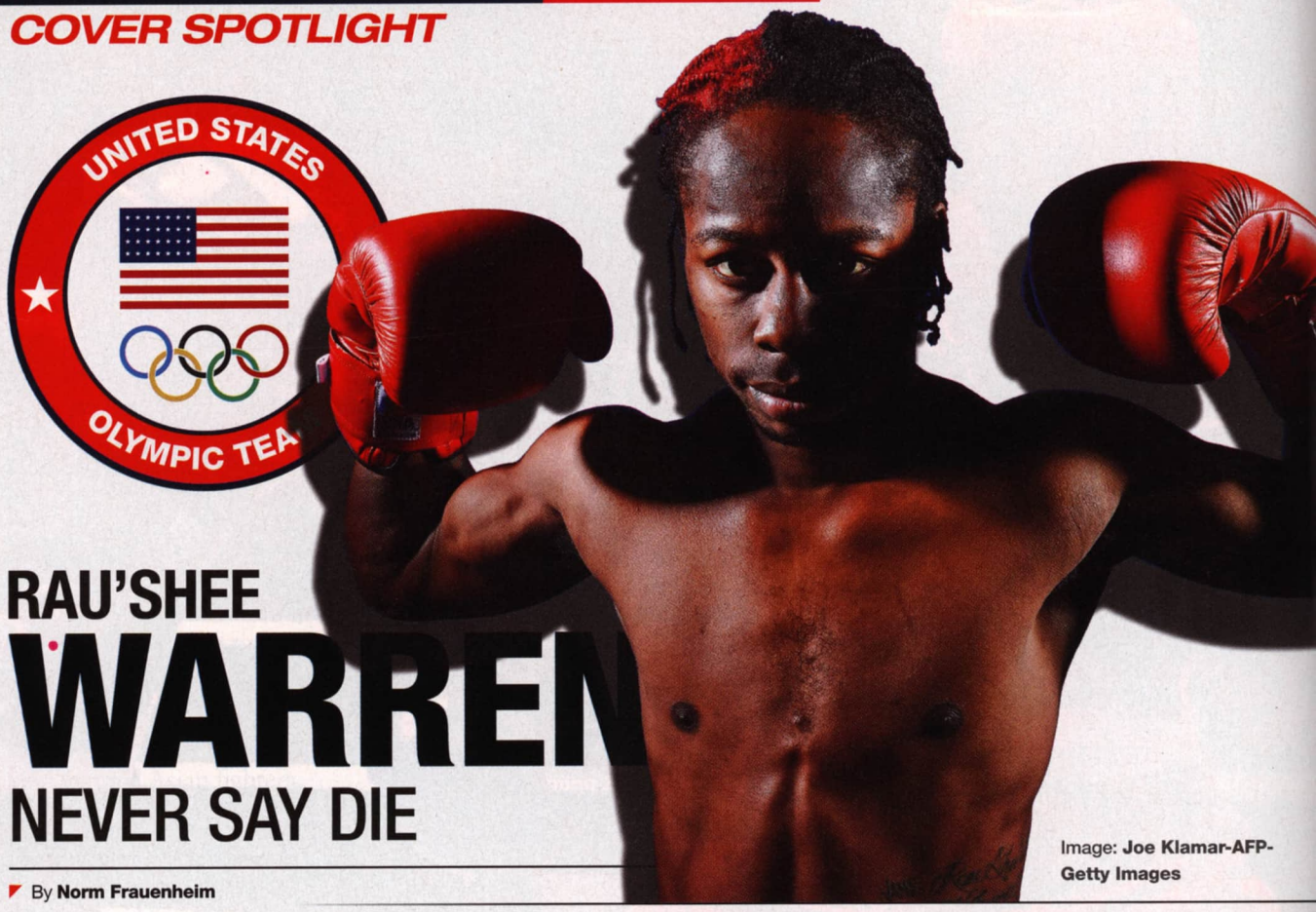
UNITED KINGDOM

The Brits stand fourth all-time in the Olympic medal count with 48 — 14 gold, 11 silver and 23 bronze. If boxing is in fact returning to its spiritual roots in London, the UK hope is to add a few, perhaps as many as four. Flyweight Andrew Selby, bantamweight Luke Campbell, middleweight Tom Stalker and super-heavyweight Anthony Joshua are the leading contenders.

Selby, Campbell and Joshua won silver medals at the last World Championships. Stalker is a Commonwealth Games gold medalist who figures to be comfortable at home. Selby will have to get past Misha Aloyan, the Russian who beat him in the World Championships. Campbell might have the toughest task of all: He is in the same weight class as Alvarez, the Cuban who seems to have only improved since he beat Campbell last fall.

The most intriguing medal contender is Joshua. Barry McGuigan, a former Irish featherweight and now a television analyst, picks him to win the super-heavyweight gold. At the World Championships, Joshua, the 46th seed, scored one of the biggest upsets of the 2011 tournament with an upset of Beijing gold medalist Robert Cammerelle, an Italian policeman. Joshua won World Championship silver, losing to Magomedrasul Majidou of Azerbaijan. Joshua is coming off an arrest for selling pot in March, 2011. But personal problems might be offset by friends and advisors who see his potential. One of them is Lennox Lewis, the former heavyweight champion who beat Riddick Bowe for super-heavyweight gold in 1988. ■

COVER SPOTLIGHT



RAU'SHEE WARREN

NEVER SAY DIE

Image: **Joe Klamar-AFP-Getty Images**

By **Norm Frauenheim**

The Olympics are known for a medal count. But nobody counts the tears. Rau'shee Warren has shed many. Yet, he's back for an attempt at gold that eluded him in 2004 and again in 2008.

It's for mom.

Always has been.

"It's her medal, not mine," Warren said of what will happen if he takes that step in London.

Moving on to the pros would have been the easiest thing to do. Money, not medals, is why most young fighters answer an opening bell in the first place. But Warren isn't like most. Quit on a promise at your own risk, he says of a lesson his mom, Paulette, won't let him forget.

"She tells me what I can do, not what I can't do," Warren said.

If he had, his life might have taken a dark turn.

His brothers went to prison. Friends in Cincinnati lost lives in street violence. But Warren kept himself busy at fulfilling a promise made before going to Athens as a 17-year-old.

"People like to say boxing kept me out of jail," said Warren, now a 25-year-old father of two sons. "But it wasn't the boxing. It was the struggle."

The struggle has been defined by that elusive medal. In 2004, Warren, then a light-flyweight, lost his first bout to China's Zou Shiming. In 2008, there was another quick elimination, this time at flyweight. In a moment that summed up a divisive split between U.S. coaches and fighters, Warren listened to shouts from the stands. Thinking he was ahead, he stayed away from South Korean Lee Oksung in the final round. When the 9-8 score was announced, Warren broke down in tears.

"I could have gone pro," he said.

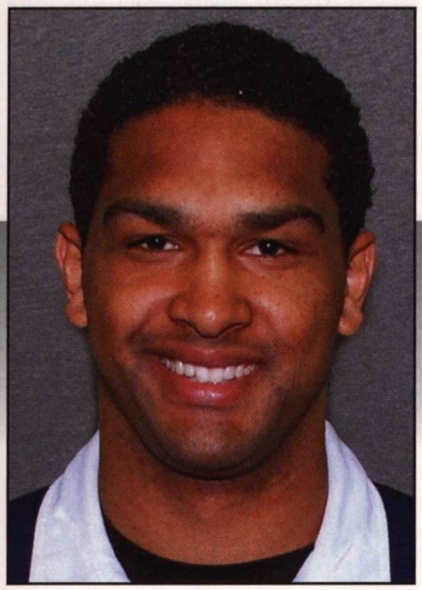
But that would have meant a personal surrender. The semi-pro World Series of Boxing (WSB) was a factor in his decision.

"We were able to fight for some money and still go to the Olympics," he said.

Fulfilling a son's promise to his mom might be as difficult as ever, however. At the World Championships in Azerbaijan, Warren won bronze. That means he won't be the favorite in London. But he won't be the Warren people saw in Athens and Beijing, either.

"I'm a man now," he said. "I'm not just tapping. My shots have more power. I throw more combinations. They're going to see a different Rau'shee Warren this time."

Maybe a Rau'shee Warren with gold. ■

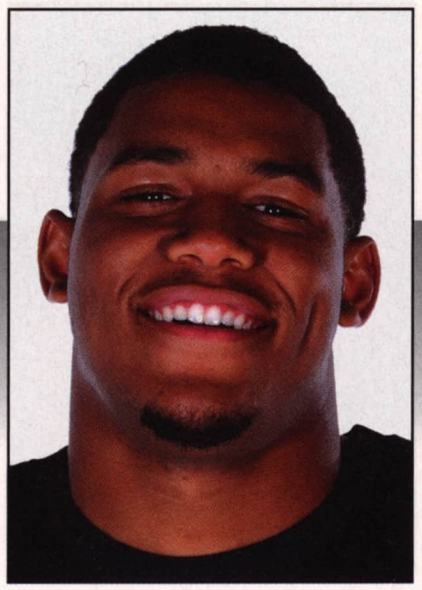


DOMINIC BREAZEALE

DIVISION: SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 6-FEET-6
AGE: 26
HOMETOWN: ALHAMBRA, CALIF.

RESUME: He knows more about throwing a football than he does a punch. The starting quarterback in 2006-07 at the University of Northern Colorado, Breazeale didn't start boxing until 2008. He was invited to work out at a gym in Carson, Calif., named "the Rock," which is financed by television producer Michael King in an attempt to build new American heavyweights. The athletic Breazeale immediately showed promise. The door to London opened when Cam Thompson, who had reached the final eight in the 2011 World Championships, was suspended for a year for missing three successive drug tests. Breazeale earned a trip to London in the Brazil qualifier, where he finished second.

MOTIVATION: Breazeale thought his athletic career was over after he took his last snap at Northern Colorado. He said he didn't know where his life was going. Little did he know that it was going to the Olympics.

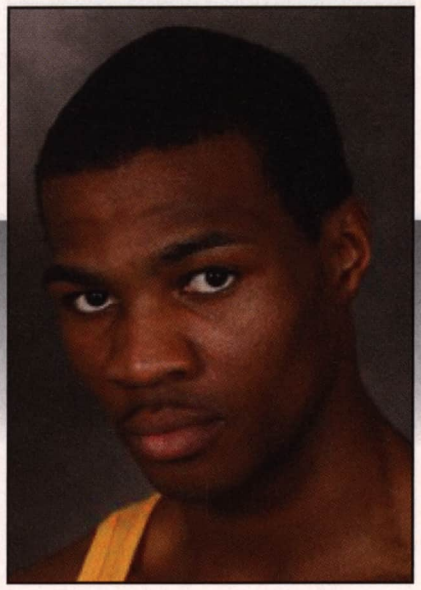


MICHAEL HUNTER

DIVISION: HEAVYWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 6-FEET-2
AGE: 24
HOMETOWN: LAS VEGAS

RESUME: A three-time U.S. national champion, Hunter found himself in a fight for redemption in his Olympic quest. He tested positive for marijuana after winning at the U.S. trials in Mobile, Ala. He was suspended and then regained his eligibility in time to fight at the 2012 USA National Championships in March. He won, which earned him a trip to the Brazil qualifying tournament. He won there, too, earning a shot in London in a division that includes gold-medal favorite Oleksandr Usyk of Ukraine.

MOTIVATION: Hunter grew up in boxing. He often talks about his father, Michael "The Bounty" Hunter, who had an erratic pro career, including victories over Dwight Qawi, Pinklon Thomas and Oliver McCall. Hunter's dad died in 2006 in a Los Angeles police shooting.

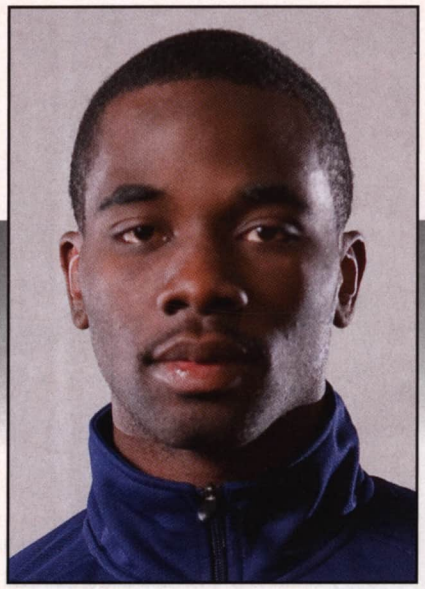


MARCUS BROWNE

DIVISION: LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 6-FEET-2
AGE: 21
HOMETOWN: NEW YORK

RESUME: Browne won the Police Athletic League's national title in 2010 and a U.S. national championship in 2012. He turned in one of the most-dominating performances at the U.S. Trials in August. At the subsequent World Championships, Browne reached the round of 16 and lost to Russian Egor Mekhontsev. Mekhontsev had to reach the finals for Browne to get a quick ticket to London. The Russian didn't; Browne didn't. Not to worry. Browne assured himself of a chance in London by winning gold at the Brazil qualifier. Browne, who has been compared to Chad Dawson, is in a division dominated by Cuban gold-medal favorite Julio Cesar la Cruz.

MOTIVATION: Browne remembers N'Watchi Hartley, who he used follow to the gym. Hartley died in 2008 after he was hit by a car. Browne says he is fighting for his lost friend.

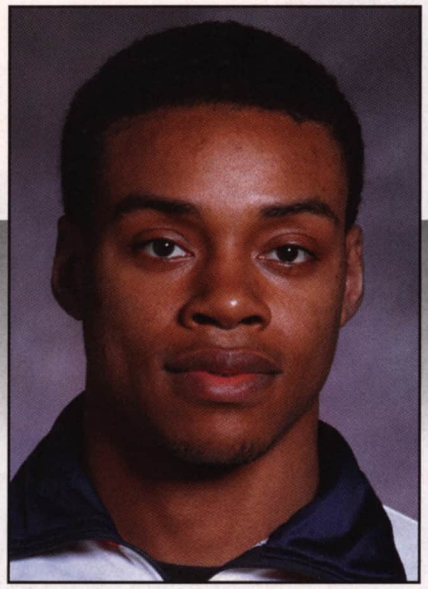


TERRELL GAUSHA

DIVISION: MIDDLEWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 5-FEET-10
AGE: 24
HOMETOWN: CLEVELAND

RESUME: A 2009 U.S. national champion, Gausha nearly gave up on his Olympic hopes in August when he didn't win at the U.S. Trials in Mobile. Then, the Trials winner, Jesse Hart, failed to qualify for London at the 2011 World Championships. Hart continued to struggle. Gausha got a second chance and won a controversial decision over Hart at the 2012 USA National Championships. That earned him the right to fight in Brazil for Olympic eligibility in only his second international tournament. He won gold in Brazil. Next stop: London.

MOTIVATION: Gausha, who says his strength is an ability to adjust, talked about second chances after he came home from Brazil. He learned how valuable they are. He also knows how to capitalize on one.

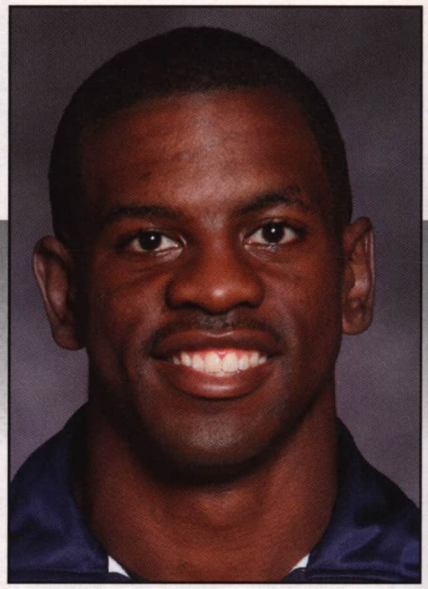


ERROL SPENCE

DIVISION: WELTERWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 5-FEET-9
AGE: 22
HOMETOWN: DALLAS

RESUME: He is a three-time U.S. national champ, a pro prospect and medal contender. At the U.S. Trials last August, he displayed a good jab and evident power, especially in his right hand. He qualified for London at the 2011 World Championships, where he lost to the eventual silver medalist Serik Sapiyev, a Kazakhstani who won world amateur titles at light welterweight in 2005 and 2007.

MOTIVATION: His dad, who was born in Jamaica, got his son interested in boxing while watching retired heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, a Jamaican who won Olympic gold for Canada in 1988. Spence, who can often be seen doing his roadwork late at night during Dallas' hot summers, hopes to emulate Lewis' poise.

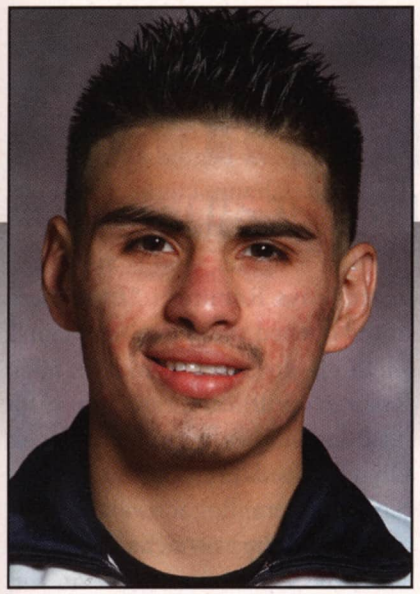


JAMEL HERRING

DIVISION: LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 5-FEET-10
AGE: 27
HOMETOWN: CORAM, N.Y.

RESUME: A sergeant in the Marines, Herring won a silver medal in the 2010 World Military Games, gold at the 2011 Armed Forces Championships and a 2012 U.S. national championship. In winning the U.S. Trials in Mobile, he was impressive with agile footwork and evident speed. He lost his opening bout at the 2011 World Championships but qualified for London in May in Brazil.

MOTIVATION: Sgt. Herring, the first active Marine to make an Olympic boxing team since Sergio Reyes in 1992, has done two tours in Iraq, 2005 and 2007. In his second tour, he was a gunner on top of a Marine vehicle when he watched a vehicle in front of him explode and vanish in flames from a roadside bomb. He says he's fighting for his comrades.

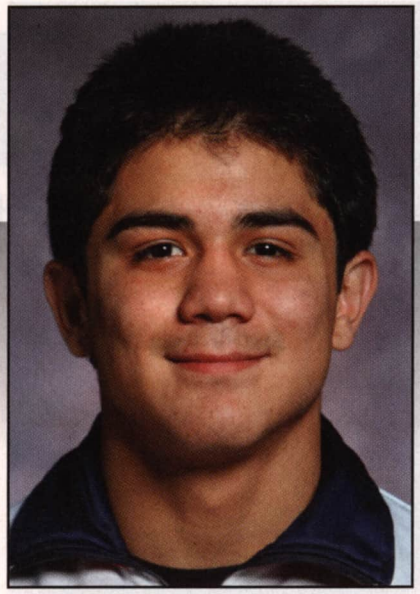


JOSE RAMIREZ

DIVISION: LIGHTWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 5-FEET-10
AGE: 19
HOMETOWN: AVENAL, CALIF.

RESUME: He is a 2011 U.S. national champion who started boxing as an 8-year-old and earned his ticket to London with a second-place in Brazil. After winning the U.S. Olympic Trials last August in Mobile, he traveled to Azerbaijan and drew the tournament's toughest challenge in the opening round. He faced Ukrainian Vasyl Lomachenko, the 2008 gold medalist and winner of the Val Barker Trophy for being the best boxer at the Beijing Olympics. Some of his teammates thought Ramirez, who is at his best while throwing combinations, outworked Lomachenko, but he lost. Lomachenko went on to win the 2011 World Championship.

MOTIVATION: Another shot at Lomachenko and a gold medal for his parents, who worked the fields in his hometown.

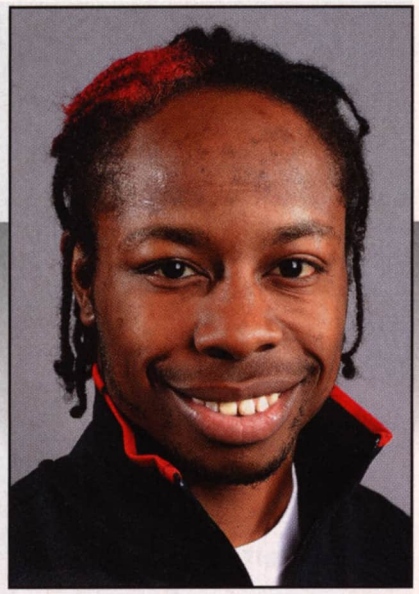


JOSEPH DIAZ JR.

DIVISION: BANTAMWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 5-FEET-5
AGE: 19
HOMETOWN: SOUTH EL MONTE, CALIF.

RESUME: A relative newcomer to the international scene, he is a 2011 U.S. national champion. He has a chance at a medal. He gained valuable experience at the 2011 World Championships last fall. He qualified for London in Azerbaijan by reaching the quarterfinal round, in which he lost to Lazaro Alvarez, a talented Cuban who goes to London as the gold-medal favorite.

MOTIVATION: He is proud of confronting adversity with patience and poise, often rare in a young fighter, yet important on a stage as big as the Olympics. He says he is a thinking fighter who likes to control the ring, which is one way to get to the medal stand.

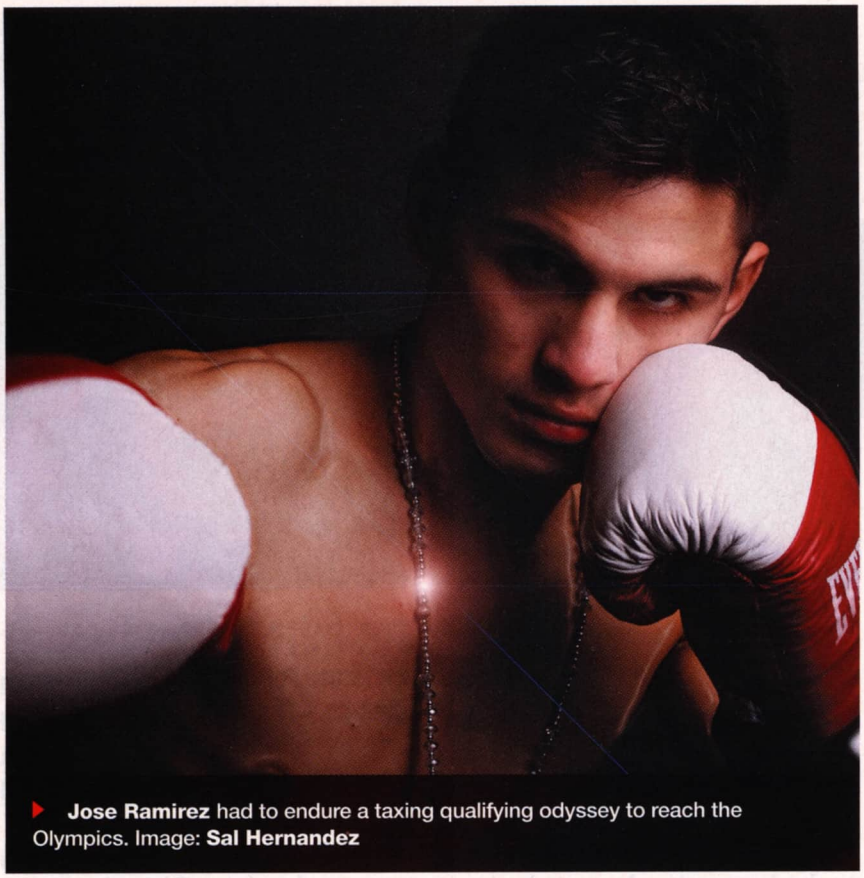


RAU'SHEE WARREN

DIVISION: FLYWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 5-FEET-4
AGE: 25
HOMETOWN: CINCINNATI

RESUME: He is America's first boxer to make three Olympic teams. He didn't medal in either 2004 or 2008. However, his international experience, including computer-scoring, is an edge that gives him the best chance at winning America's first gold since Andre Ward in 2004. A four-time U.S. national champion, he won a World Amateur Championship in 2007. He won bronze at the 2011 World Championships in Azerbaijan.

MOTIVATION: His mother, Paulette. He says he has yet to go pro because he promised his mom that one day he would drape Olympic gold around her neck.



Jose Ramirez had to endure a taxing qualifying odyssey to reach the Olympics. Image: **Sal Hernandez**

JOSE RAMIREZ

'CHOSEN' FOR OLYMPICS

By **Bart Barry**

What father of a 7-year-old boy hasn't wondered what to do with his kid's energy? The father of Jose Ramirez, who will represent the United States as a lightweight at the London Olympics, found a convenient outlet in a boxing gym two blocks away.

"My dad wanted me to do a sport that was all year long," says Ramirez. "For me to waste a lot of my energy, so that when I got home, I was relaxed."

That was in the small Central California city of Avenal, an oil boomtown 80 years ago whose commerce now relies on a state prison and an agricultural industry staffed by Mexicans, many of whom, like Ramirez's family, emigrated from the coastal state of Michoacán.

"They all know each other," says Ramirez. "It's unique because we stick together."

Ramirez plans to return to Fresno State in the fall to fulfill a promise he made to his father and pursue a degree in business administration. An appropriate course of study, that, as Ramirez's self-branding has already begun. His website, TheFutureChamp.com, features attire that reads "The Chosen One."

"I'm a fighter who is also a believer," says Ramirez. "I get these doors opened that I can't explain."

If all goes according to plan, Ramirez will celebrate his 20th birthday on the day he fights for an Olympic medal. In boxing, he sees himself assembling a toolbox.

"I try to be as coachable as possible," he says.

Coachability is an important attribute for a pressure fighter who concedes that international boxing, with its computerized scoring, is very different from the local scene where judges click off punches with a manual counter in each hand. Everything about Olympic boxing, including the path to London, has been a little different.

That path included a now-famous "reload" that saw only three U.S. Trials winners return from the world championships still a part of Team USA. Those, like Ramirez, who failed to place highly enough had to box at the National Championships in February. Ramirez won his way back on Team USA, traveled to a qualifier in Brazil in May and qualified for the London Games.

The day after qualifying, though, Ramirez dropped a controversial decision, 13-10, to a boxer from the Dominican Republic. That held an important lesson.

"Start strong and finish stronger," says Ramirez. "Leave no doubt."

Being an Olympian is a story of its own, and so the branding of Jose Ramirez will go forward, whatever his showing in London. But Ramirez knows well how much better things might go with a gold medal round his neck. ■

AMERICA'S FINEST

THE 10 BEST U.S. TEAMS IN THE HISTORY OF THE GAMES

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Any ranking of the best Olympic boxing teams in U.S. history starts and finishes with two teams: 1976 and 1984.

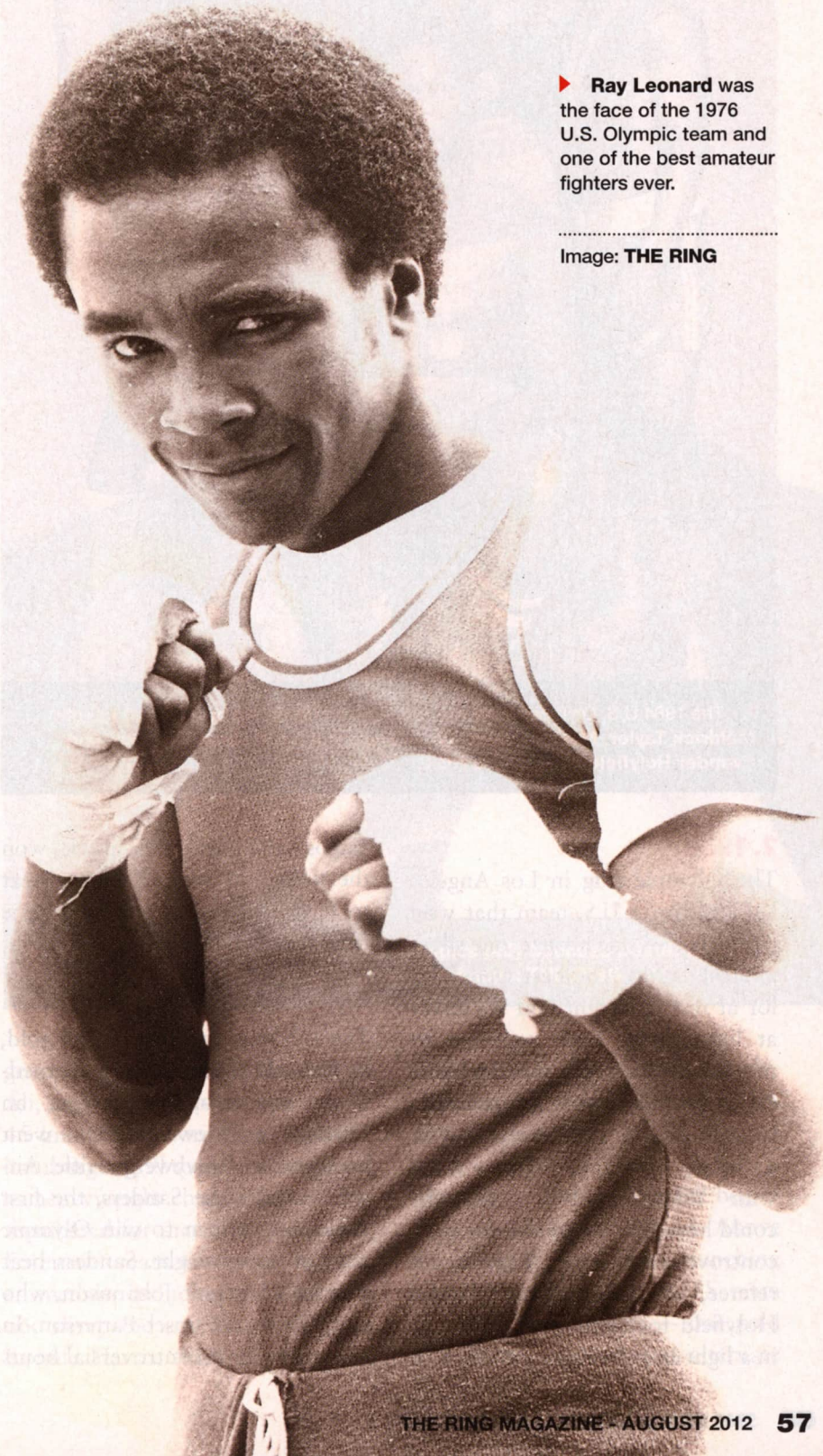
Which one belongs at the top of the list? There's no right or wrong. Just an argument. The 1976 team had Ray Leonard at the top of the gold-medal stand and Howard Cosell at ringside. The 1984 team had Meldrick Taylor, Pernell Whitaker and four more medals than the 1976 Americans, yet was left with questions about its dominance because of the Soviet and Cuban boycott of the Los Angeles Games.

It's a close call, but 1976 wins on this scorecard for intangibles that make it America's most memorable team.

HERE'S A LOOK AT THE TOP 10:

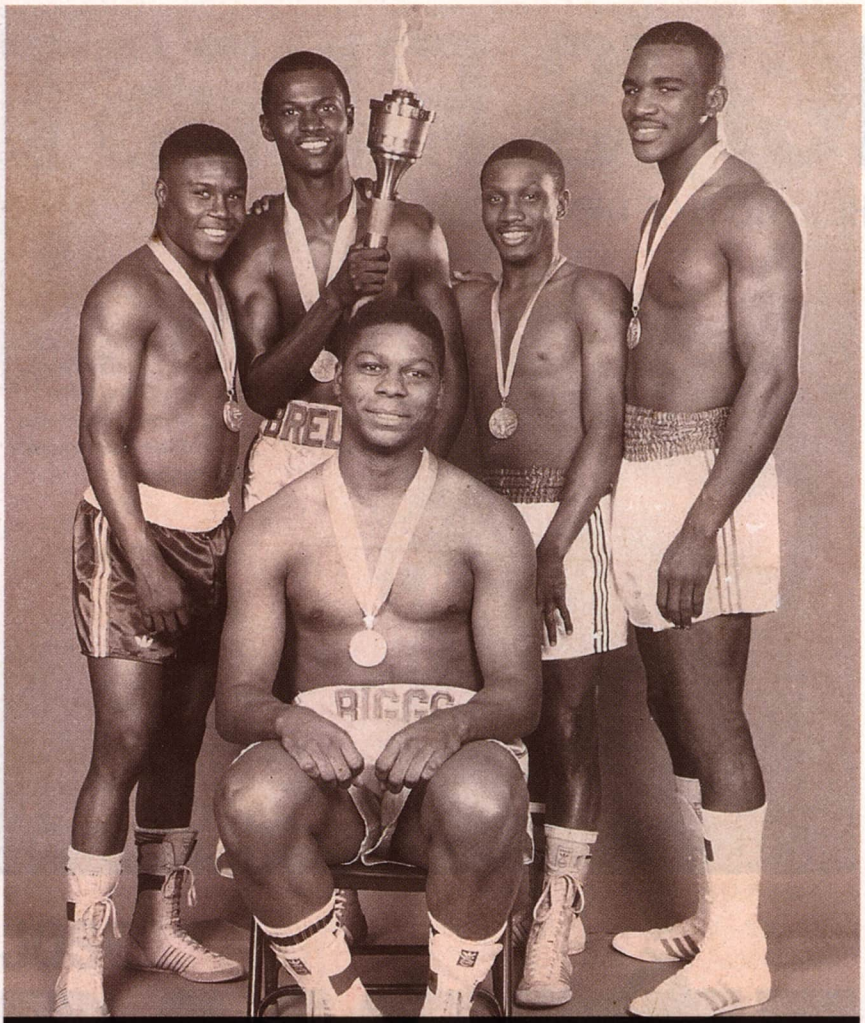
1. 1976.

Olympic boxing was never more popular than it was in Montreal, mostly because of Leonard. He and Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci were the biggest names of those Games. After winning light-welterweight gold, Leonard said he would retire. He didn't, and the pro game thrived in the '80s because of a career summed up by his nickname, Sugar. In all, the U.S. won seven medals – five gold, one silver and a bronze. The Spinks brothers each won gold, Michael at middleweight and Leon at light-heavy. Gold also went to lightweight Howard Davis, who at the time was almost as popular as Leonard.



Ray Leonard was the face of the 1976 U.S. Olympic team and one of the best amateur fighters ever.

Image: **THE RING**



The 1984 U.S. Olympic team was loaded with talent, led by (from left to right) **Meldrick Taylor, Mark Breland, Tyrell Biggs** (sitting), **Pernell Whitaker** and **Evander Holyfield**. Image: **THE RING**

2. 1984

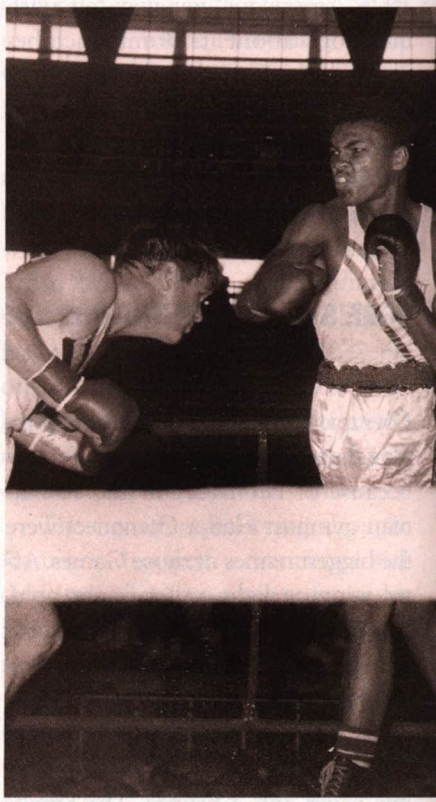
The Olympic ring in Los Angeles belonged to a U.S. team that won 11 medals — one bronze, one silver and nine gold. The best were Taylor at featherweight and Whitaker at lightweight. Both went on to pro titles in careers that included controversy in bouts against Julio Cesar Chavez, who escaped with a victory over Taylor and a draw with Whitaker. The Americans could have had 10 gold if not for a controversial call by a Yugoslavian referee, who disqualified Evander Holyfield for hitting on the break in a light-heavyweight semi-final. A Yugoslavian, Anton Josipovic, won the gold, but was never a threat to Holyfield's reign as a four-time heavyweight champ.

3. 1952

The U.S won five medals, all gold, in Helsinki. One of the gold medalists was Floyd Patterson, an Olympic middleweight who went on to win a heavyweight title. Another was Eddie Sanders, the first African-American to win Olympic gold at heavyweight. Sanders beat Sweden's Ingemar Johannson, who in 1959 would upset Patterson. In one of the most controversial bouts in Olympic history, Johannson circled the powerful Sanders for two rounds. In the third, the referee disqualified him for not fighting. The silver medal was withheld, although the International Olympic Committee gave it to him 30 years later. Sanders died in Boston in 1954 after collapsing in the ring during what was only his eighth pro bout.

4. 1960

The Rome Olympics will be remembered for one fighter, Cassius Clay, who won light-heavyweight gold. Clay would become Muhammad Ali, and the rest is history. Two of Clay's forgotten teammates also won gold. Eddie Crook won middleweight gold and then won the silver star, bronze star and two Pur-

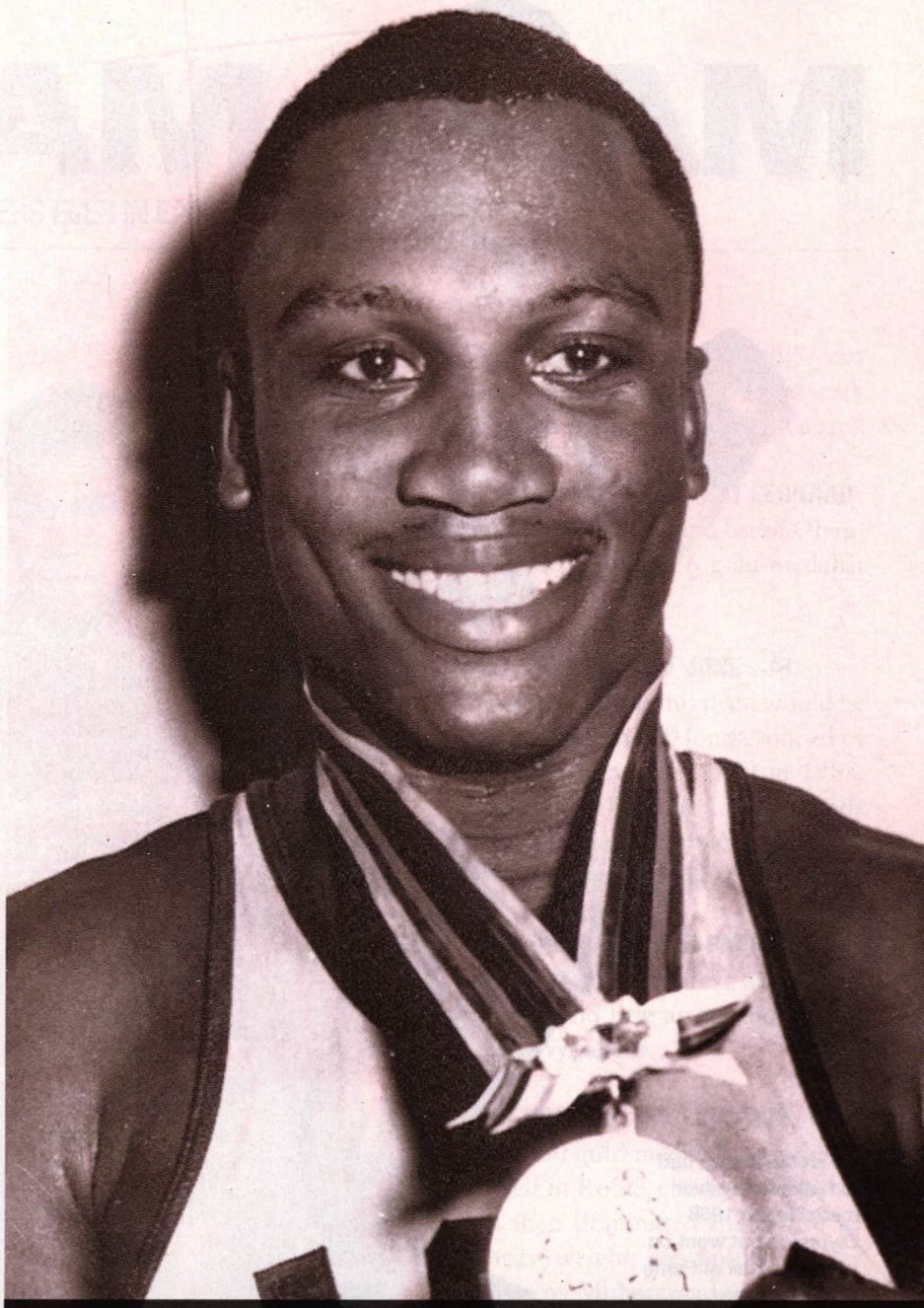


Muhammad Ali began his remarkable career in earnest by winning a gold medal in the 1960 Olympics as **Cassius Clay**. Here, he faces Russian **Gennadiy Shatkov** in a quarterfinal match. Image: **THE RING**

ple Hearts in two tours of service during the Viet Nam War, which Clay — then Ali — protested. Ali's opposition to the war led to his suspension from boxing for more than three years. Wilbert McLure, who had a Ph.D. in psychology, won gold at light-middleweight. In a brief pro career, Dr. McClure fought Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, losing once and getting a draw in the rematch.

5. 1988

The Seoul Games are infamous for what happened to Roy Jones Jr., who was robbed of light-middleweight gold in a scandal that continues to cast a long, dark shadow on Olympic boxing. It's no coincidence, perhaps, that 1988 was the last good U.S. team. The Americans won eight medals — three gold, three silver and two bronze. If not for the Jones rip-off and controversial scoring in a light-flyweight bout that left Michael Carbajal with silver, the U.S. would have had five gold. The '88 team also produced great pros. Carbajal is in the Hall of Fame. Jones will be. Super-heavyweight silver medalist Riddick Bowe, who lost to Canada's Lennox Lewis in the gold-medal bout and never fought him again, went on to win a heavyweight title. Heavyweight gold medalist Ray Mercer also won a heavyweight title. Bantamweight gold medalist Kennedy McKinney held a super-bantamweight title. Light-heavyweight gold medalist Andrew Maynard challenged for a cruiserweight belt.



Joe Frazier qualified for the 1964 Olympics only because Buster Mathis was injured but returned with a gold medal. Image: THE RING

6. 1968

Mexico City, a controversial Olympics symbolized by the black-power salutes of track-and-field athletes Juan Carlos and Tommie Smith, is also known for a photo of George Foreman, who paraded around the ring with a tiny American flag stuck in a bear paw-sized hand after winning heavyweight gold. He would go on to beat Joe Frazier, lose to Ali, regain the heavyweight title at 45 and make more money with a hamburger grill than he ever earned as heavyweight champ. But he's remembered for that Olympic photo. Foreman's team accounted for seven medals, including three bronze, one silver and a second gold from Ronnie Harris, then a lightweight, who went on to contend for the middleweight title in the late 1970s.

7. 1964

The Tokyo Games were the beginning of the Frazier legend. Above all, Frazier was bone-crunching tough. He made it onto a U.S. team that won four medals — one gold and three bronze — as an alternate

Jose Torres had to settle for a silver medal in the 1956 Olympics but went on to have a Hall of Fame career as a pro.

Image: **THE RING**

when Buster Mathis fractured a knuckle. Frazier reached the gold-medal bout against West Germany's Hans Huber, whom he beat despite a broken left hand that seven years later would beat Ali in a Madison Square Garden bout which was the first of their defining rivalry.

8. 1956

The U.S. team in Melbourne produced two gold medals, one silver and two of boxing's enduring personalities. Jose Torres won the silver in a loss to Hungarian legend Lazslo Papp and then embarked on a Hall of Fame career that included the light-heavyweight title in a 1965 victory over Willie Pastrano. Torres, who died in 2009, retired not long after two losses to Dick Tiger and began a writing career that included a book, *Fire and Fear: The Inside Story of Mike Tyson*. The American team also included colorful Pete Rademacher, who won the heavyweight gold and then became the only heavyweight to fight for the title in his debut. In 1957, He knocked down Patterson in the second round and then lost by sixth-round KO. He also lost to Archie Moore, who in 1961 knocked him down eight times.

9. 1932

The Americans won five medals — two gold and three bronze — in the first Los Angeles Games. Two of the medalists are noteworthy: Flyweight bronze medalist Lou Salica became the best pro, winning his first world bantamweight title in 1935 during a 91-fight career interrupted by World War II. Welterweight gold medalist Edward Flynn had a forgettable pro career after compiling an amateur record that was, well, unbelievable. It was reported to be 144-0.

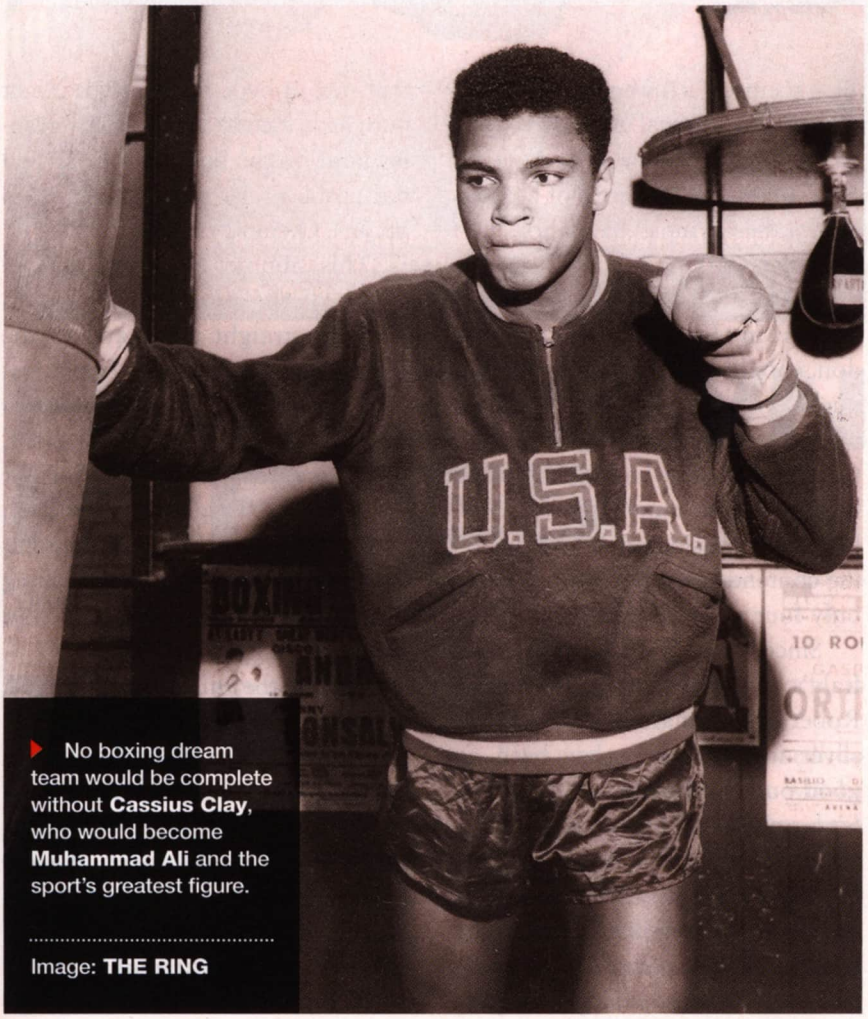
10. 1904

A forgotten team has to be on this list. The U.S. got a running start on its overall medal lead in St. Louis, where boxing was introduced as a medal sport. There were seven weight classes. The Americans won gold in each and 19 of the 21 total medals. One feat will never be duplicated. A fighter named Oliver Kirk won two gold medals. After winning the featherweight gold, Kirk lost 10 pounds and won the bantamweight division. ■

DREAM TEAM

THE BEST AMERICAN OLYMPIC BOXERS EVER IN EACH WEIGHT CLASS

By **Norm Frauenheim**



No boxing dream team would be complete without **Cassius Clay**, who would become **Muhammad Ali** and the sport's greatest figure.

Image: **THE RING**

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT: MICHAEL CARBAJAL
The 1988 silver medalist awakened major promoters to a market at boxing's lightest weights.

FLYWEIGHT: LOU SALICA
The forgotten 1932 bronze medalist became one of history's best bantamweights in a 91-fight pro career.

BANTAMWEIGHT: MELDRICK TAYLOR
The 1984 featherweight gold medalist belongs on this team, so we've put him at bantamweight, which is 123.4 pounds, the 2012 Olympic weight for bantam. He won in 1984 at a weight between 119 and 126 pounds.

LIGHTWEIGHT: OSCAR DE LA HOYA
His 1992 gold medal in Barcelona was the beginning for the game's most marketable fighter of the next 15 years in a career that included a controversial decision in 1997 over Pernell Whitaker, the 1984 gold medalist (and second choice for this team).

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT: RAY LEONARD
On a pound-for-pound list of Olympic boxers, the 1976 gold medalist would rank No. 1.

WELTERWEIGHT: ROY JONES JR.
Keeping Jones off this team would be just another rip-off. Jones, robbed of gold at light-middleweight in 1988, fought at 147.7 and 156.5 pounds in Seoul. The Olympic weight for welter in London is 152.1 pounds.

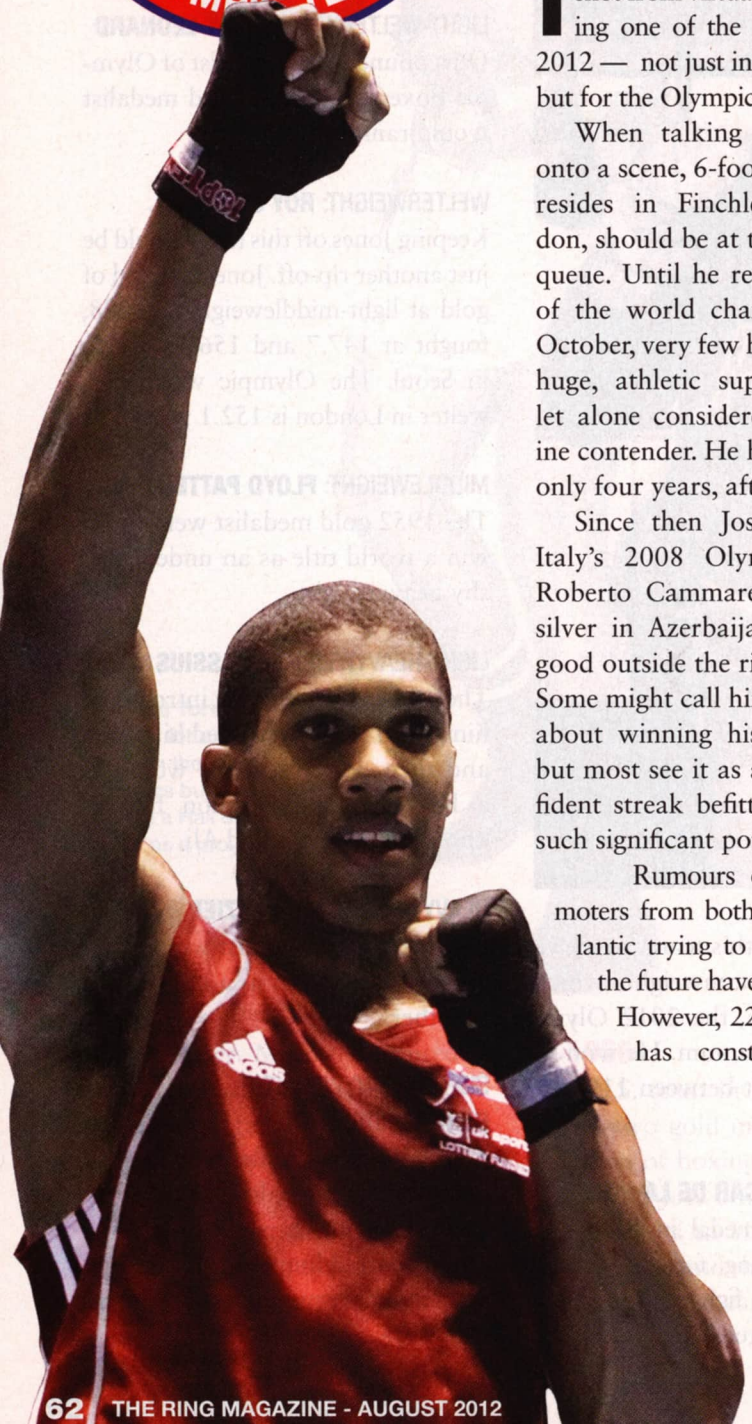
MIDDLEWEIGHT: FLOYD PATTERSON
The 1952 gold medalist went on to win a world title as an undersized, shy heavyweight.

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT: CASSIUS CLAY
The 1960 gold medalist introduced himself in Rome, changed his name and then dominated the world as a heavyweight champion forever known as Muhammad Ali.

HEAVYWEIGHT: JOE FRAZIER
The 1964 gold medalist would beat Ali and lose to Ali in a rivalry like no other.

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT: GEORGE FOREMAN
The 1968 gold medalist would go on to beat Frazier, lose to Ali, play the bad guy and become a good guy who endeared himself to fans by regaining a heavyweight title at 45. ■

COVER SPOTLIGHT



ANTHONY JOSHUA

THE HOST NATION'S BIG (6-FOOT-6) HOPE

By **Harry Pratt**

In six months Anthony Joshua has shot from virtual unknown to being one of the faces of London 2012 — not just in terms of boxing, but for the Olympics as a whole.

When talking about bursting onto a scene, 6-foot-6 Joshua, who resides in Finchley, north London, should be at the head of your queue. Until he reached the finals of the world championships last October, very few had heard of this huge, athletic super-heavyweight, let alone considered him a genuine contender. He had been boxing only four years, after all.

Since then Joshua, who beat Italy's 2008 Olympic champion Roberto Cammarelle en route to silver in Azerbaijan, has been as good outside the ring as he is in it. Some might call him cocky, talking about winning his home Games, but most see it as an assured, confident streak befitting a fighter of such significant potential.

Rumours of big-time promoters from both sides of the Atlantic trying to sign him up for the future have not been denied. However, 22-year-old Joshua has constantly dismissed that sort of hype as irrelevant. Right now he is focussed on matters looming large on the London horizon and the problems he must overcome to become Olympic champion.

This summer his rivals will be aware of the power he carries in his long straight right, and of the speed and strength he brings inside the ring — things for which they were not prepared in 2011. Therefore, Joshua is preparing for a serious, far tougher examination of his much talked-up credentials. Instead of picking off in-rushing targets, he will have to make a lot of the running at the ExCeL.

"Before they might have thought, 'I can take this guy out' — and then found I was physically stronger than they expected," says Joshua, who in March 2011 nearly wrecked his career when found guilty of dealing cannabis and was sentenced to a 12-month community order and 100 hours of unpaid work.

"Maybe at the Games, as I now have a reputation, they might try and sit off me a bit more and not want to get involved. It's true that I'm going to have to adapt to opponents not wanting to come and trade with me so much."

Adapting while flying up the rankings — he is currently world No. 4 in the 91kg+ category — has proved a breeze to date. Do not rule out 'Big Josh' blowing a golden gale across the English capital come August 12. ■

Andrew Selby was one of two Welshman (**the other being Fred Evans**) to qualify for the Olympics at the World Championships. Image: **Dean Mouhtaropoulos-Getty Images**

HOMETOWN HEROES

By **Harry Pratt**

This summer represents an opportunity like no other for Great Britain's boxing team. Forget the remarkable fact that no British Olympic champion has ever become a world titleholder at the professional level. With London 2012 very much their Games, any of the seven home favorites who manages gold, silver or even bronze will be assured instant celebrity status.

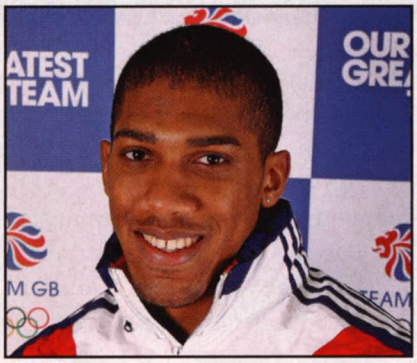
They will be lauded as the next big thing, the "next Amir Khan" by the British media. And let's not forget how the Bolton boy's silver medal in Athens in 2004 catapulted him into millionaire row long before he hit the top of the junior welterweight rankings.

It is a lot to ask of a group of relative youngsters — given the talent of nations like Cuba and Ukraine — yet Great Britain boss Rob McCracken, long-time trainer to super middleweight star Carl Froch, is optimistic his boys will shine.

"We are very confident we'll do well in London and that it will be great for boxing in the UK," said the former Birmingham middleweight. "It's a very difficult, but it's a great sport, and this is the elite level, and that's where these boxers want to be.

"They want to be No. 1, and it means a lot to them. They want to go on and achieve great things, and they've shown over the last few years they can do that. I'm sure they will carry that on going into London and beyond."

Here is a look at fighters upon whose shoulders rest the dreams of the host nation and who will be roared on by an expectant British public. Every session at the ExCel Arena, in south London, is a total sell-out.



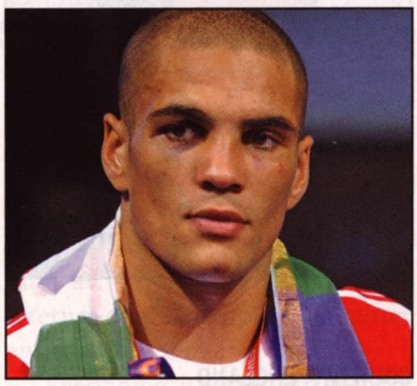
ANTHONY JOSHUA

COUNTRY: ENGLAND

WEIGHT CLASS: SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT

Joshua's run at the world amateurs in Azerbaijan, defeating reigning Olympic champion Roberto Cammarelle before losing by a point to home fighter Mago Majidov in the final, made everyone sit up. The pressure is on, make no mistake, but this 22-year-old from Watford, who stands at 6-foot-6 and only started boxing four years ago, appears in control.

"There are a lot of clued-up guys on the team and we all say, 'The Olympics is going to be tough, man.' We communicate and understand what's ahead of us," said Joshua, now ranked No. 4 in the world. "I have been told to enjoy it and not be like 'I can't wait and until this over.' I'll enjoy everything going on."



ANTHONY OGOGO

COUNTRY: ENGLAND

WEIGHT CLASS: MIDDLEWEIGHT

Ogogo qualified via the back door at the European Championships in

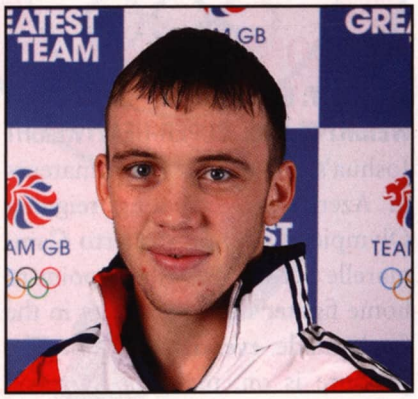
Turkey but could be a dark horse after arriving at the Olympics the hard way.

"It's been a long journey. I'm in the gym, working and listening to the coaches and doing everything I can to be successful," said the 22-year-old from Suffolk.

"Since I was beaten at the world championships by the Ukrainian, every punch I've thrown I'm thinking about him and correcting the mistakes I made. He overwhelmed me, and the bottom line is he was the better fighter on the day. Come the Olympics, it will be different," Evans said.

can cope with the intense Olympic spotlight.

"We speak to the coaches about the expectations, and they say it's just like every tournament we enter. It's still boxing, and we have to cut out the hype," said the Hull lad.



FRED EVANS

COUNTRY: WALES

WEIGHT CLASS: WELTERWEIGHT

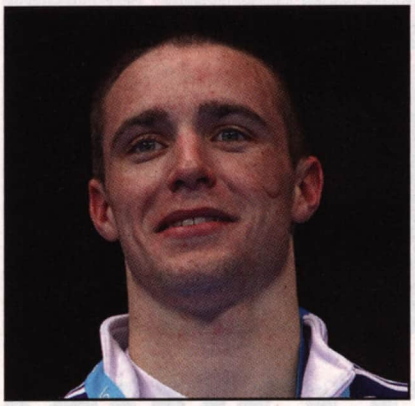
The 21-year-old from Cardiff and countryman Andrew Selby became the first Welshman to win gold at the European level in 86 years late last year. Evans made the last eight at the worlds to book his Olympic spot.

TOM STALKER

COUNTRY: ENGLAND

WEIGHT CLASS: LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT

Stalker, the world No. 1, only took bronze last October in Azerbaijan. The Liverpool lad, at 27 the oldest member of the team, is vowing to put the record straight in London.

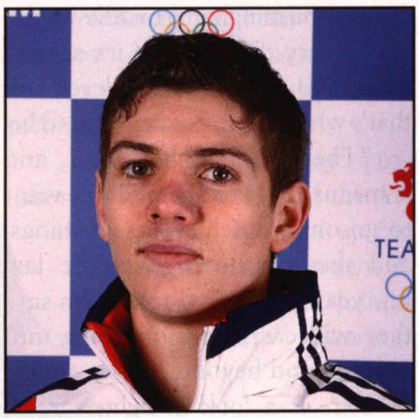


JOSH TAYLOR

COUNTRY: SCOTLAND

WEIGHT CLASS: LIGHTWEIGHT

The only boxer from north of the border to qualify now aims to become Scotland's first medallist since Dick McTaggart, who won gold in 1956 and bronze in 1960. Taylor, from Lochend, reached London after making the quarters in the last qualifier event in Trabzon, Turkey, in April.



LUKE CAMPBELL

COUNTRY: ENGLAND

WEIGHT CLASS: BANTAMWEIGHT

Campbell took silver at the worlds last year and, at 23, is convinced he

ANDREW SELBY

COUNTRY: WALES

WEIGHT CLASS: FLYWEIGHT

One of two Welshman to qualify at the worlds last October, Selby, who lost by a point in the final, believes he can go all the way come July by piling on shots.

"I know how good I can be, and I'm just keeping my head straight and focused. One thing I am working on is starting my bout quicker," said the 22-year-old from Barry. "That's what cost me in the world finals. I used to throw 200 punches a round, now it's 300!" ■

Roy Jones Jr. (left) and everyone watching around the world was stunned when the hand of **Park Si-Hun** was raised after their gold-medal match in 1988. Image: **John Iacono-Sports-Illustrated-Getty Images**

'WORST EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE'

ROY JONES JR. WAS ROBBED OF A GOLD MEDAL 24 YEARS AGO BUT IT STILL HURTS

By **Norm Frauenheim**

Roy Jones Jr. doesn't know where his silver medal is. It's buried somewhere beneath tarnish collected over the 24 years since he brought it home from the Seoul Olympics more as if it were a scar than a prize. He's forgotten about the medal. But not the story.

It's remembered and repeated every four years. You'll hear it almost as often as you'll hear a national anthem during the London Games. It's an Olympic cold case, still unresolved for many who were there and still an issue that haunts boxing.

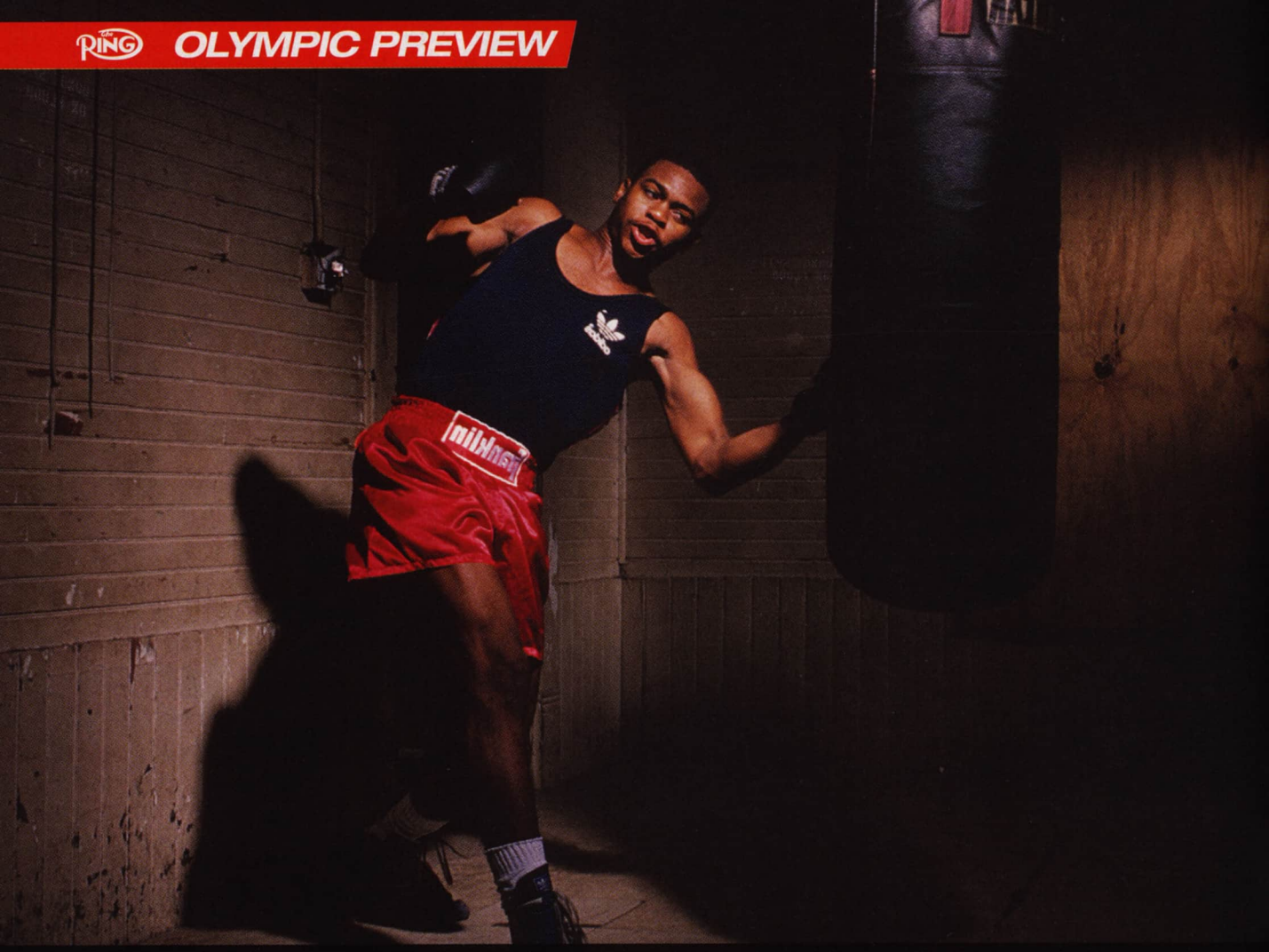
"Worst experience of my life," Jones said. "A tragic day, more so for the sport than it was even for myself."

The day: Oct. 2, 1988.

Jones, then 19 years old, had speed, power and an 86-to-32 advantage in punches, according to an NBC computer, Count-A-Punch. Yet, Jones lost to South Korean Park Si-Hun on three of five scorecards in a controversy that spawned angry allegations then investigations later, promises for reform and even a conciliatory gesture, an Olympic Order, that the International Olympic Committee awarded Jones in 1997.

Everything, it seems, but gold for Jones in what could have been closure and perhaps point to a new beginning with a way to fix the mess.

Six Olympiads later, however, it lingers on several levels, including a half-baked idea introduced in 1992



Roy Jones Jr., shown here training in Pensacola, Fla., was primed for glory going into the 1988 Olympics. Image: **Ronald C. Modra-Getty Images**

that computer-scoring would somehow sweep away the scandal. Computer scoring will be gone after London in a move back to traditional scorecards, which are planned for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. But the Jones story is still there, a virus in the software and a contagion on the 1988 cards that robbed an American whose subsequent pro reign at the top of the pound-for-pound debate was a persistent reminder of how bad it was.

"At the time, I didn't realize what had really happened," Jones, now 43, said in Las Vegas during the week before 1996 bronze-medalist Floyd Mayweather Jr. – undefeated since the Atlanta Olympics – beat Miguel Cotto on May 5. "What I didn't realize was how much it hurt boxing. The reason I say that is because, truthfully, the Olympics was where boxing kind of gets a little bit of a jump start. Some of our great boxers have been Olympians first. Whether it was gold medals, silver medals or bronze medals, they were still Olympians first.

"When you destroy the integrity of the Olympics, you mess up bad. Now, the integrity of boxing itself was almost diminished because of that one event. The problem with that event — caught on tape — was you got it wrong and you didn't correct it. What that tells me is that I can go over there, I can win, those people can rob me and you do nothing about it. So why do you have it? You might as well cut it out of the Olympics if you're going to cheat people."

Nineteen-eighty-eight is considered America's last good team. Olympic boxing had become a professional steppingstone, a beginning for Muhammad Ali — then Cassius Clay — at the 1960 Games in Rome, Joe Frazier in 1964 at Tokyo, George Foreman in 1968 at Mexico City and Ray Leonard in 1976 at Montreal. From the 1984 team in Los Angeles, there were Meldrick Taylor, Pernell Whitaker and Evander Holyfield. The Seoul team was as productive as any with eventual Hall of Fame junior flyweight Michael Carbajal, future bantamweight champion Kennedy McK-

Roy Jones Jr. sailed through early-round fights before disaster hit. Image: **Russell Cheyne-Getty Images**

inney, Jones and Riddick Bowe, America's last good heavyweight to come out of the Olympics.

Since then, however, there have been four Olympics and only three American gold medalists — Oscar De La Hoya in 1992, David Reid in 1996 and Andre Ward in 2004 — among 16 total medals, including three silver and 10 bronze. Much has contributed to the decline, including Cuba's emergence, a tougher qualifying system and the computer scoring, which has encouraged a slap-slap, shoe-shine style of punching at the expense of knockout power and ring generalship.

The tactic, then and for at least one more Olympics, is to make sure that the judges see your hands bounce off an opponent's head like a busy ping-pong ball. The Europeans mastered it; the Americans did not. Increasingly, young Americans bypass the Olympic possibility because it doesn't prepare them for the pros.

De La Hoya's gold medal for his late mom in Barcelona is one of the most compelling moments in Olympic history. But if De La Hoya had been a young prospect today instead of 1992, it's a story that might never have happened.

"Now, I would have gone pro, because of that system" De La Hoya said. "Yes, I'd have definitely gone pro."

Over and over, however, the debate returns to the Jones controversy, which prompted the move to computer scoring. It's the reference point for all that has transpired since 1988. The reason is simple enough. Somebody, human frailties and all, still has to be assigned a judges' seat, regardless of whether the method of scoring is a keypad or pencil-and-paper. At the 2008 Beijing Games, controversy on the night before the gold-medal bouts erupted amid allegations that there were improper assignments of referees and judges in an attempt to influence the outcome of bouts.

A prepared release from the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) said "it had obtained information regarding a possible attempt on the part of certain individuals, both within the organiza-

Some believe that **Michael Carbajal,** a light-flyweight on the U.S. team, also was the victim of a bad decision in 1988.

Image: **Holly Stein-Getty Images**

tion and within the competition, to manipulate the competition."

At a late-night news conference in Beijing, American Tommy Virgets, an AIBA official in 2008, said: "For 20 years, our organization has been under a cloud of suspicion."

There it was again, the Jones story. A very similar scenario played out the night before the gold medal bouts in 1988. There was an argument about two judges, Alberto Duran of Uruguay and Hiouad Larbi of Morocco. The American delegation had assumed both weren't eligible because they had been suspended for questionable scoring in earlier bouts. But suddenly both were again in the mix for assignments presumably made a through a random draw.

A heated exchange was reported between American officials and a member of Olympic boxing's 1988 executive committee, Vladimir Gordienko of the former Soviet Union. Gordienko stormed out of the meeting at about 2 a.m. on the day of the first round of gold medal bouts.

American Stan Hamilton, an amateur judge and referee from Knoxville, Tenn., had been working on the assignment of judges. Hamilton told the Los Angeles Times that Gordienko then spoke to Jim Fox, the 1988 president of the U.S. boxing delegation.

"Gordienko was angry," Hamilton said. "He found Fox and told him: 'You will lose 5-0 to the Bulgarian."

Gordienko was talking about Carbajal, who, sure enough, lost that day 5-0 to Bulgarian Ivalio Hristov in a bout that many believe the American had won.

"I thought I'd won, too, but I also remember that the second round was real close," said Carbajal, who says his silver medal was stolen a few years ago from a bank vault in Phoenix, his hometown. "At the time, I didn't like it, but I just thought it was another bad decision. Boxing is full of them. But the next day the Roy Jones thing happened. That was different. That was crazy."

In hindsight, the decision that went against Carbajal has been interpreted as a sign of the storm about to envelop Jones. The two judges in question, Larbi and Duran, were assigned to the Jones bout. Despite ripping left hooks from Jones during a one-sided three rounds that included a standing 8-count against Park, Larbi and Duran scored it 59-58, each for the South Korean. Bob Kasule, a judge from Uganda, scored it 59-59, but designated Park the winner. The other two judges, one a Russian and the other a Hungarian, both scored it 60-56 for Jones.

When *Sports Illustrated* asked Larbi to explain his scorecard, he was quoted in an English translation as saying: "The American

won easily. So easily, in fact, that I was positive my four fellow judges would score the fight for the American by a wide margin. So I voted for the Korean to make the score only 4-1 for the American and not embarrass the host nation."

Only boxing got embarrassed, and that's tough to do.

The immediate suspicion was that the fix was in. First, there were rumors. Then, there were anecdotal circumstances that made you wonder. To wit: While Jones and Carbajal went on to win multiple pro titles, Park and Hristov ended their careers with their gold medals. Neither ever continued to fight as amateurs and neither ever fought as a pro. How come? Then, in 1996 there was a book, *The New Lord of The Rings*, in which British author and investigative reporter Andrew Jennings wrote about bribery alleged in files kept by Stasi, the former East Germany's secret police.

According to Jennings, Karl-Heinz Wuhr, the 1988 general secretary of AIBA, was a Stasi agent.

"They [the Koreans] did not miss a chance to try to corrupt or influence me," Wuhr wrote in files acquired by Jennings. "They repeatedly attempted to persuade me to take back my decisions punishing judges they seemed to have an interest in. There were always judges prepared to declare a South Korean boxer victor, even if this was completely ludicrous."

Wuhr said bribes went to several judges, although none were named. He said three were from Africa and one from South America. Referee Aldo Leoni, an Italian who worked the Jones-Park fight, said his roommate in Seoul, Osbaldo Bisbal of Argentina, told him he was pulled from an assignment when he refused to accept an envelope stuffed with cash.

Based on the book, USA Boxing asked in 1996 for an investigation in what it hoped would turn Jones' silver into gold. But the bureaucratic alchemy never happened. The International Olympic Committee decided in 1997 it could not prove bribery. Instead, the IOC said only that some judges had been "wined and dined" by South Korean organizers.

Roy Jones Jr. will be remembered at least as much for his successful professional career — including a victory over **John Ruiz** to win a heavyweight title — as for his Olympic disappointment.

Image: **Hector Mata-AFP-Getty Images**

Jones argues that boxing, both amateur and pro, has been forced to pay ever since.

"It hurt the Olympics first," said Jones, whose passion for what happened more than two decades ago is undiminished by time. "Then, it hurt the pro side of the business. Now, a young guy looks at it and says: 'Why even go to the Olympics? Look at what happened to him. I can't get a fair deal.' "

Like De La Hoya, Jones says he would bypass the Olympics if he were a 19-year-old today.

"If I saw what I went through, I'd say "Hell no, I won't go,'" Jones said. "No way. You invest too much of your time and yourself to take that chance. I mean, not only can they cheat you. They'll stick to it if they do.

"Look, I ain't mad. I'm really not. It's not about me, not anymore. I did more in boxing than I ever thought I would. It's really about what happened to the sport. It got hurt that day, and that's what still hurts." ■

COMPUTERIZED SCORING: DOWN FOR THE COUNT

THE MALIGNED SYSTEM, WHICH MANY BELIEVE DAMAGED AMATEUR BOXING, WILL BE USED FOR THE LAST TIME IN LONDON

By **Ron Borges**

The road to hell is paved with good intentions. So, too, was the hellish road to computerized scoring at the Olympic Games.

A failed 20-year experiment with an utterly misnamed and misrepresented scoring system that turned Olympic boxing into a sport unrecognizable from its professional progenitor and made it all but unwatchable will finally come to an end this summer in London, when for the last time red and blue electronic counting pads will be used to decide who medals and who mettles in the Olympic process.

The shift away from traditional paper scoring came as a response to the dreadful judging debacle that took place in Seoul in 1988 when Roy Jones Jr. pummeled poor Park Si-Hun in the light middleweight final so badly that after the judges cooked the books and handed the gold medal to the Korean, Si-Hun turned to Jones as they stood on the medal stand and told him the wrong guy got the gold.

"It's not the guy's fault," Jones said at the time. "He told me he was sorry and that he lost the fight, but that the judges gave it to him."

The controversy grew so heated that despite failing to win the gold Jones was still named the tournament's outstanding boxer by the International Amateur Boxing Federation's (AIBA) executive board, the same board that appointed those corrupt and incompetent judges. Soon after, a decision was made to go with what became wrongfully called "computerized scoring," the intention being to try and minimize the kind of blatant falsification that victimized Jones and nearly got boxing removed from the Olympics by the International Olympic Committee.

At least that's what was said at the time, but one longtime observer of Olympic boxing, NBC Sports boxing analyst Teddy Atlas, has another theory. Atlas will be calling every fight in his fourth straight Olympiad this summer, bringing him to over 1,200 amateur bouts as commentator. What he has come to believe is that the move to a computerized scoring system solved none of the problems with dishon-

Oscar De La Hoya actually changed his style to conform to the computer scoring system in the 1992 Olympics, in which he won a gold medal.

Image: **Bob Thomas Sports Photography-Getty Images**

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BOXING

esty but created even greater ones for amateur boxing.

"They tried to call it computerized because they were in trouble," Atlas said of the fallout from the Jones decision. "It was damage control because there was talk of corruption and of eliminating boxing from the Olympics. The feeling of impropriety was everywhere you looked.

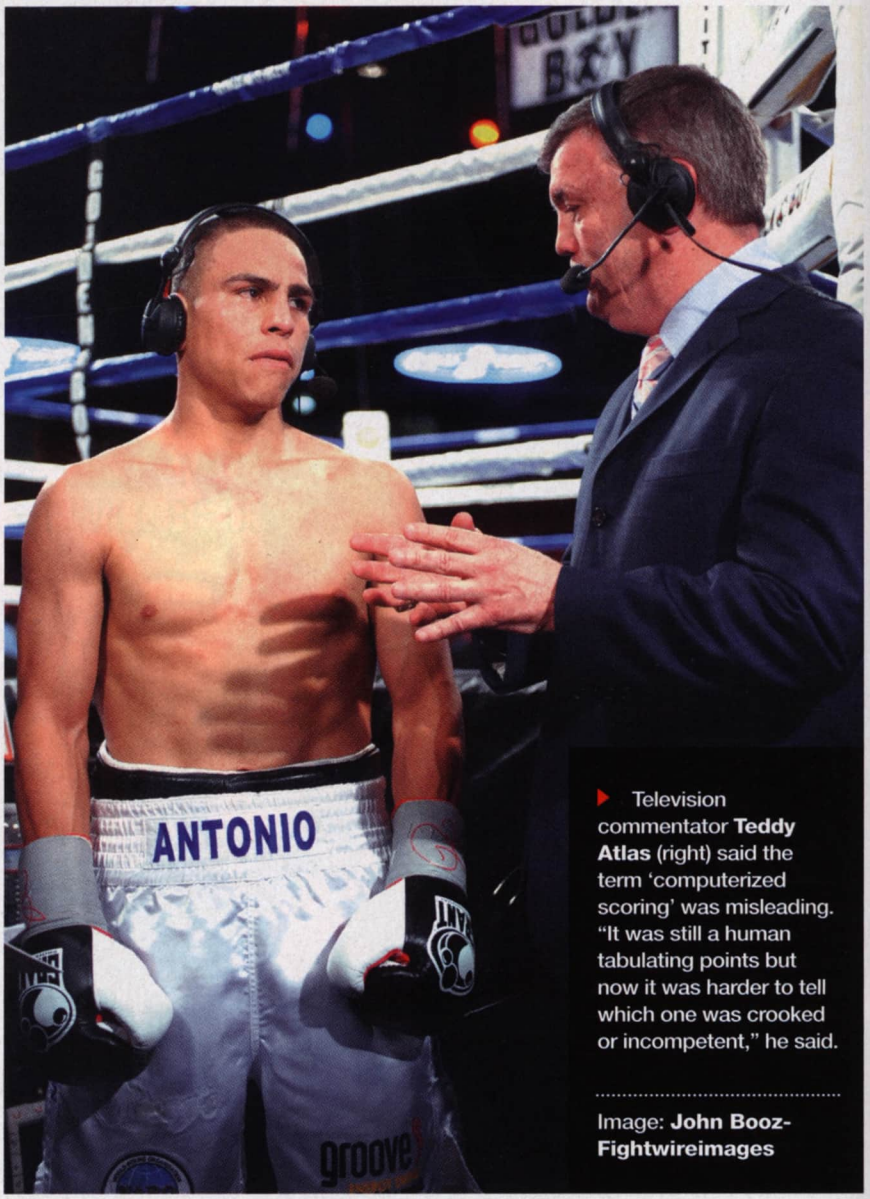
"So when they said 'computerized scoring' it sounded like they were removing the human element. It needed to be removed because that was the corrupt element, but what you began to realize was it was just like a criminal using latex gloves. They weren't ending corruption. They were just getting rid of the fingerprints.

"The reality was nothing was computerized. It was still a human tabulating points but now it was harder to tell which one was crooked or incompetent. They did it for their own survival. Crimes were being committed so they had to make it look like the crime scene had been cleaned up.

"I would do fights and see clear scoring blows with the white part of the glove and no point registered. Then you'd see no blow and a guy would get points. So it didn't end corruption or incompetence but it nearly ended the sport.

"What computerized scoring did was redesign the nature and look of the sport. Coaches began to figure out how to game the system. They trained guys not to fight. Instead they sat on the outside, tried to land enough jabs to get a lead and then they ran and held.

"It began to look like fencing with boxing gloves on. It just mattered if you touched the guy. Power didn't count. Body punches didn't count. You couldn't throw combinations because the punches landed too fast to hit the buttons so you got no points.



Television commentator **Teddy Atlas** (right) said the term 'computerized scoring' was misleading. "It was still a human tabulating points but now it was harder to tell which one was crooked or incompetent," he said.

Image: **John Booz-Fightwireimages**

"The sport became more and more disconnected from what it was supposed to be. Fighters weren't looking to engage in combat. They were looking for ways to help incompetent scorers hit those pads. It became difficult for audiences to have an interest in it or embrace it."

One of the few American fighters to understand the change computerized scoring had wrought and react to it was Oscar De La Hoya. De La Hoya was heavily favored to win gold in Barcelona in 1992 but a year before the Games he was handily defeated in an international competition. That experience convinced him to abandon the style that had boxing experts predicting he would become a world champion and create one designed solely to win in Barcelona.

"My style was always a pro style, sit down on your punches, throw body shots," De La Hoya recalled, "but in 1991 I lost in the first round of the world championships to Marco Rudolph. He ran the whole fight but I lost by a large

margin. Flying home I decided I had to change my style or the system would take away what I wanted – the gold.

"I had to stop caring about how I looked and focus on landing leather. You could tell pretty quickly it was a bad scoring system. There was more room for error and it seemed like a conspiracy at times. In Barcelona our captain, Eric Griffin, fought the first fight of the Olympics and he didn't get the decision in a fight where he landed a ton of punches. They gave it to a Spanish guy. It was the worst decision I ever saw in my life."

The flaws of a "computerized" system in which three of the five judges all had to strike the same colored pad (red or blue) within a second of each other for a scoring blow to register were quickly apparent in Barcelona. Then head of USA boxing Jim Fox railed at the time that something would quickly be done to alter it.

"The gist of it," Fox said after the 1992 Games, "is that the machine as currently structured doesn't hold judges accountable for the scores they put in. So consequently, if someone isn't pushing the button, he can control the score on the board."

Criticism of the judging and claims of corruption did not go away, and the IOC finally temporarily froze payments to AIBA after the 2004 Athens Games. Yet nothing really changed for 20 years except that more and more outrageous decisions were handed down, controversy continued to dog boxing every Olympiad and fewer and fewer fans were watching.

By the 2008 Games in Beijing, Atlas was seldom broadcasting in prime time, instead calling Olympic medal round fights (as well as all those that preceded them) on subsidiary branches of NBC so difficult to find it was harder to locate Olympic boxing on U.S. television than to understand the judges' decisions if you happened to find the broadcast. That will be the case in London as well but at least it will be the final Olympiad where old men tapping colored buttons will be more important than young men tapping each other.

Ching-Kuo Wu, president of AIBA, has said he hopes to bring amateur boxing back into alignment with the pro game. Image: **Javier Soriano-AFP-Getty Images**

"I'm glad they're going back to judging by the eye," De La Hoya said. "That's the best way to judge a fight – by watching it. The system is hurting boxing. It's made amateur boxing irrelevant, and it made our boxers adjust their style away from the pro style.

"I was fortunate because Al Stanky was my amateur trainer and he understood. If I'd had a trainer who trained professional fighters, he never would have understood why I had to change and I wouldn't have won a gold medal."

In fact, U.S. boxers have won only three gold medals since the change after dominating the sport through 1988. The U.S. has more boxing medals (109) than any country in the world but after winning seven medals – including five gold – in 1976, 11 medals in 1984 with nine golds (and no Cubans or Russians participating) and eight medals with three golds in 1988, the drop off has been precipitous. Since the advent of the computerized scoring system, the U.S. has won only three gold and 16 total medals in five Olympiads. Four years ago was the worst American performance in Olympic history — no golds for the second time in the past three Olympics and only one medal, a bronze.

That is not all the fault of the scoring but former Olympic gold medalist and four time world heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield believes abandoning the computer will greatly aid U.S. fighters in the future.

"I think it will be good for the sport and good for American fighters," Holyfield said. "That computer beat us more than other countries did.

"To score points you can't fight like a professional, and that's the way most of our kids are trained. Most of them stay in boxing because they want to turn pro. Then they get to the Olympics and they can't box the way they've been trained. It makes it hard to win."

Ching-Kuo Wu, president of AIBA, has said he hopes to bring amateur boxing back into alignment with the pro game and is pressing for the inclusion of professional boxers in the Games in the future, as other sports like basketball and hockey have done. The first step in that direction, he believes, was ending computerized scoring. In addition, headgear will disappear, as it did in the Olympics

The **Spinks** brothers, **Leon** (left) and **Michael**, brought to the 1976 Olympics a fighting spirit that seems to be lacking in recent Games. Image: **THE RING**

until the 1980s. But the most important move in the Internet Age is away from the computer.

"The current scoring system is based on the punches (landed) so the judge has no other way to judge the boxer," Wu told Reuters earlier this year. "Ten-points must (to the winner of a round) is (more) comprehensive, with the style of the boxer and their fighting spirit and also the score (factoring in). At the moment there's no way to judge these boxers as performers, showing their style. Muhammad Ali, why is he (great)? Because of his style.

"Our referees and judges will train for using the scoring method. We have to have a process. In AIBA, everybody involved on the technical side, technical officials, referees, judges, they have to pass the examination. The most important job is to establish the system."

Actually the most important job was getting rid of the system because, frankly, it's hard to believe any other system could be worse. With the same point given for a light jab as for a blow that knocks an opponent down, Olympic boxing became more about landing any punch rather than an effective one. Scoring fights simply by counting punches landed contradicts the very nature of the sport because power matters in boxing – except at the Olympics.

A case in point are the careers of Mike Tyson and Henry Tillman. Tillman twice defeated Tyson in the Olympic Trials even before the advent of computerized scoring and went on to win a gold medal in 1984. When they fought as professionals, Tillman didn't last three minutes with Tyson. It is a return to that latter form of the sport that Atlas believes now has a chance to revive the amateur game.

"Look, it doesn't matter what the scoring system is if you don't have competent people," Atlas said. "You need judges who are influenced only by what should influence them – who hits the guy the hardest and who hits the guy more often.

"Your eyes are still the best way to score a fight but only if you're going by what you see in the ring and not what someone tells you to see before anyone's in the ring.

"What you hope is our kids will be able to return to fighting like professionals. That's all you heard in the amateurs the last 20 years. This kid fights too much like a pro. What other sport do they say it's bad to look like a pro?

"When did fighting like a pro become a detriment in boxing? That speaks to what they allowed the sport to become. When I think of Olympic boxing, I think of the 1976 U.S. team (led by Sugar Ray Leonard, the Spinks brothers, Howard Davis and Leo Randolph – they won five gold medals, a silver and a bronze). They were fighting! They were demanding to be watched!

"They took calculated risks. They didn't sit on the outside. They came to fight. There's a chance now that we can bring that back."

One former Olympian who hopes Atlas is correct is Raul Marquez. A teammate of De La Hoya's in Barcelona in 1992, Marquez went on to win the IBF junior middleweight title before retiring. He now does Spanish-language broadcasts for HBO and runs a white-collar boxing gym in Houston, but his real interest is in a young amateur fighter in Houston with Olympic dreams like his father once had. "My son is doing pretty good in boxing," Marquez said, "but he'll do better without the computer. He can box but he likes to fight." ■

Claressa Shields (right) of the United States is among the first group of women who will benefit from the inclusion of women's boxing as an official Olympic sport. Image: **Feng Li-Getty Images**

GENDER EQUITY ... ALMOST

WOMEN CELEBRATE INCLUSION IN GAMES BUT WANT FULL EQUALITY

By **Bernard Fernandez**

Sometimes progress is measured in long kangaroo leaps. And sometimes it is achieved much more slowly and painstakingly, in snail-like increments, a fraction of an inch at a time.

For Dr. Christy Halbert and other American proponents of the inclusion of women's boxing in the Olympics, this summer's historic London Games will mark the culmination — well, at least the semi-culmination — of a long quest. Women will compete for medals in the flyweight (106-112 pounds), lightweight (123-132) and middleweight (152-165) divisions, the first time members of their gender will have fought on the grand Olympic stage since the 1904 St. Louis Games, when women's boxing was a demonstration sport

"Sometimes I am shocked that getting into the Olympics actually happened," said Halbert, a former pro who has a Ph.D. in sociology and coached the U.S. team at the first Women's World Championships in 2001. "I fluctuate between `Wow, how did this happen?' to

CLARESSA SHIELDS

DIVISION: MIDDLEWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 5-FEET-9
AGE: 17
HOMETOWN: FLINT, MICH.

RESUME: Shields, who is still in high school, was named Outstanding Boxer in the U.S. Trials after beating reigning national champion Francon Crews and 2010 world champ Andrecia Wasson. She lost to Savannah Marshall of England in the second round of the Americas qualifier but made it to London when Marshall reached the tournament final on May 18.

FAST FACT: Shields became interested in boxing after he father told her about Laila Ali.

'Why didn't this happen 20, 50, 100 years ago?'"

Considering that Title IX (the federal civil rights law that provides gender equality in educational programs, including sports) planned to celebrate its 40th anniversary on June 23, women's Olympic boxing — competition will be staged in London's ExCel Exhibition Hall from July 28 to Aug. 12 — would seem to be another step in the march towards the goal envisioned by the law's framers in 1972, and tracing its origins even farther back to the suffrage movement of the late 19th century and the Nineteenth Amendment of 1920, officially giving American women the nationwide right to vote.

But while women's college basketball players have come a very long way from the demure, ladylike skirts worn by Immaculata College's three-time AIAW national champions in the early, pre-Title IX 1970s, even the long-delayed introduction of women's Olympic boxing marks only a way stop to what Halbert and other like-minded individuals hope is fuller participation in the Olympic movement.

While 250 male boxers will compete for medals in all 10 of AIBA's approved weight classes, just 36 women will receive the same opportunity, with seven weight classes off-limits. For a woman to secure an Olympic berth in 2012, she must have, naturally or otherwise, fit into one of the three designated weight classes, negotiate a labyrinth qualifying process designed by the AIBA that sets aside a number of spots for fighters from Third World or developing nations, and, oh, yeah, possibly be required to wear a skirt in the ring.

Like that old Virginia Slims commercials used to proclaim, you've come a long way, baby. But maybe not far enough, at least not yet.

Asked if it was imperative for the International Olympic Committee to eventually allow women boxers to compete in every weight class, Sue Fox, a former pro boxer and retired police officer who in the February 2012 issue of The Ring was named one of the 10 most influential female boxers of all time, said that was the next step in an ongoing march that has yet to reach the finish line.

"The men have 10 weight classes," Fox said. "A lot of really good female fighters either didn't qualify in the three eligible weight classes, or they had to gain or lose weight to fit into one of those classes and probably didn't do as well as they otherwise might have.

"Hopefully, if (women's boxing in the London Games) takes off, in the next Olympics we'll have 10 weight classes, too. Women don't want special treatment. They just want to be treated equally."

Halbert said the best thing to possibly emerge from this summer in London would be for an American woman to medal. That might not bring the figurative Walls of Jericho tumbling down, but it sure would knock a couple of bricks loose.

"The best scenario is to bring a medal back," Halbert said. "That medal would be shared by thousands and thousands of people that participated along the way."

History of a sort was made at the first U.S. Women's Olympic Boxing Trials in Spokane, Wash., where flyweight Marlen Esparza (Houston, Texas), lightweight Queen Underwood (Seattle, Wash.) and then-16-year-old middleweight Claressa Shields (Flint, Mich.) won their weight classes and brought their Olympic dreams into sharper focus.

"The Trials are different (from past competitions) because this is history," Underwood said at the time. "It's the one event that to this

MARLEN ESPARZA

DIVISION: FLYWEIGHT
HEIGHT: 5-FEET-3
AGE: 23
HOMETOWN: HOUSTON

RESUME: Esparaza is a six-time U.S. national champion and won a bronze medal in the 2006 Women's World Championships. She became the first American woman boxer to qualify for the Olympics when she defeated Luu Thi Duyen of Vietnam 28-13 in the second round of the World Championships in Qinhuangdao, China on May 15.

FAST FACT: Esparza was her student body president at Pasadena High School in Pasadena, Calif.

TOP TEN
VIETNAM
TEN

Marlen Esparza (right) was the first American woman boxer ever to qualify for the Olympics.

Image: **Feng Li-Getty Images**

point really matters, and you get only one opportunity."

But winning the U.S. Trials only meant so much; they still had to place among the top eight in their weight classes or in the top two in the Americas, at the seventh AIBA Women's World Championships, which were held in Qinhuangdao, China. Shields got her ticket punched to London despite losing for the first time (albeit to eventual gold medalist and three-time world champion Ren Cancan of China) since she took up boxing at 11, as did Esparaza. But Underwood lost in the preliminaries and appears to be out, barring a longshot, last-minute invitation as a wild-card entry.

U.S. women who might have made it to the Olympics but were not competing in the three favored weight classes include flyweight gold medalist Tiara Brown (Lehigh Acres, Fla.), light heavyweight silver medalist Franchon Crews (Baltimore) and welterweight silver medalist Raquel Miller (San Francisco), as well as bantamweight Christina Cruz (New York City) and light welterweight Mikaela Mayer (Los Angeles), each of whom advanced to the semifinals in Qinhuangdao.

But their exclusion from Olympic consideration means there are other battles to be fought, on other fronts and on other days.

Figure Halbert, Fox and others to keep on fighting that fight until women boxers take all the seats at the Olympic table that are now denied them. ■

2008 OLYMPIC BOXING MEDAL COUNT – BEIJING, CHINA

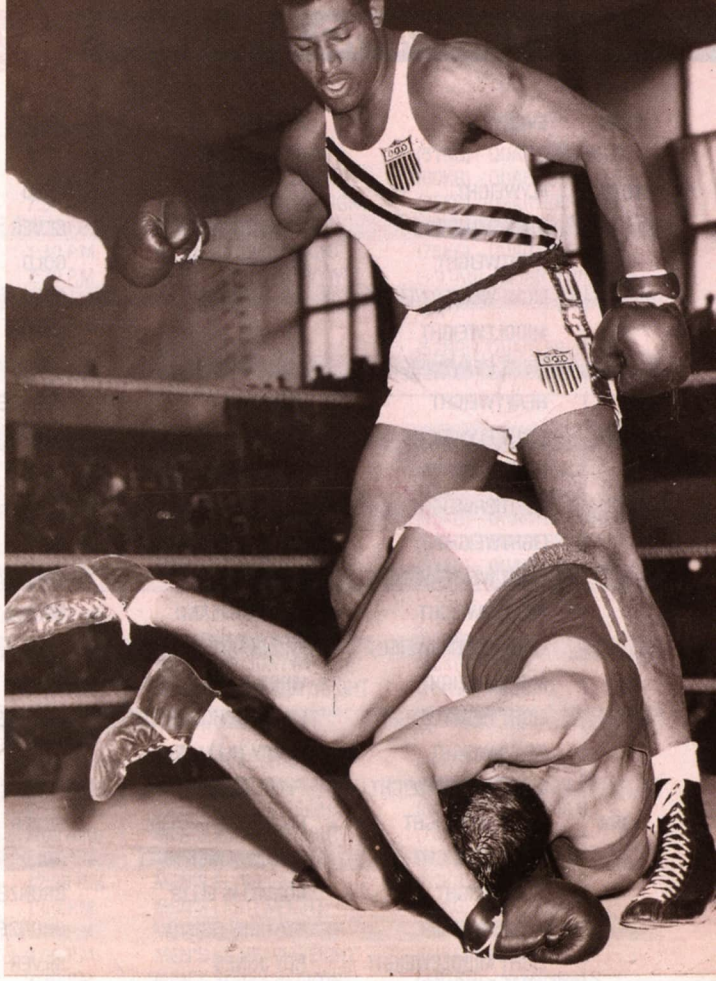
COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
CUBA	0	4	4	8
CHINA	2	1	1	4
RUSSIA	2	0	1	3
ITALY	1	1	1	3
GREAT BRITAIN	1	0	2	3
MONGOLIA	1	1	0	2
THAILAND	1	1	0	2
KAZAKHSTAN	1	0	1	2
UKRAINE	1	0	1	2
DOMINICAN REP.	1	0	0	1
FRANCE	0	2	1	3
IRELAND	0	1	2	3
ARMENIA	0	0	1	1
AZERBAIJAN	0	0	1	1
INDIA	0	0	1	1
MAURITIUS	0	0	1	1
MOLDOVA	0	0	1	1
SOUTH KOREA	0	0	1	1
TURKEY	0	0	1	1
UNITED STATES	0	0	1	1

ALL-TIME OLYMPIC BOXING MEDAL COUNT

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOT
UNITED STATES	48	23	38	109
CUBA	32	19	12	63
SOVIET UNION	14	20	19	53
UNITED KINGDOM	14	11	23	48
POLAND	8	9	26	43
ITALY	11	10	14	35
GERMANY	5	12	11	28
ROMANIA	1	9	15	25
ARGENTINA	7	7	10	24
HUNGARY	10	2	8	20
RUSSIA	8	3	9	20
FRANCE	4	7	8	19
SOUTH KOREA	3	6	10	19
S. AFRICA (UNTIL 1960)	6	4	9	19
BULGARIA	4	5	8	17
CANADA	3	7	7	17
FINLAND	2	1	11	14
EAST GERMANY	5	2	6	13
KAZAKHSTAN	5	4	4	13
THAILAND	4	3	6	13
DENMARK	1	5	6	12
IRELAND	1	4	7	12
MEXICO	2	3	7	12
SWEDEN	0	5	6	11
YUGOSLAVIA (UNTIL 1988)	3	2	6	11
ITALY (UNTIL 1946)	4	3	2	9
UKRAINE	2	2	5	9
NORTH KOREA	2	3	3	8
KENYA	1	1	5	7
ALGERIA	1	0	5	6
CZECH. (UNTIL 1992)	3	1	2	6
WEST GERMANY	1	0	5	6
NETHERLANDS	1	1	4	6
NIGERIA	0	3	3	6
PUERTO RICO	0	1	5	6
UZBEKISTAN	1	0	5	6
CHINA	2	1	2	5
NORWAY	1	2	2	5
PHILIPPINES	0	2	3	5
TURKEY	0	2	3	5
VENEZUELA	1	2	2	5
AUSTRALIA	0	1	3	4
AZERBAIJAN	0	0	4	4
BELGIUM	1	1	2	4
EGYPT	0	1	3	4
SPAIN	0	2	2	4
MONGOLIA	1	1	2	4
UGANDA	0	3	1	4
CHILE	0	1	2	3
COLOMBIA	0	0	3	3
GHANA	0	1	2	3
JAPAN	1	0	2	3
MOROCCO	0	0	3	3
NEW ZEALAND	1	1	1	3
BELARUS	0	2	0	2
CAMEROON	0	1	1	2
DOMINICAN REP.	1	0	1	2
MOLDOVA	0	0	2	2
TUNISIA	0	0	2	2
AUSTRALASIA (UNTIL 1920)	0	1	0	1
ARMENIA	0	0	1	1
BERMUDA	0	0	1	1
BRAZIL	0	0	1	1
CZECH REP.	0	1	0	1
ESTONIA	0	1	0	1
GEORGIA	0	0	1	1
GUYANA	0	0	1	1
INDIA	0	0	1	1
MAURITIUS	0	0	1	1
NIGER	0	0	1	1
PAKISTAN	0	0	1	1
SYRIA	0	0	1	1
TONGA	0	1	0	1
URUGUAY	0	0	1	1
ZAMBIA	0	0	1	1

ALL-TIME AMERICAN MEDALISTS

YEAR	EVENT	ATHLETE	MEDAL
1904	FLYWEIGHT	GEORGE FINNEGAN	GOLD
	FLYWEIGHT	MILES BURKE	SILVER
	BANTAMWEIGHT	OLIVER KIRK	GOLD
	BANTAMWEIGHT	GEORGE FINNEGAN	SILVER
	FEATHERWEIGHT	OLIVER KIRK	GOLD
	FEATHERWEIGHT	FRANK HALLER	SILVER
	FEATHERWEIGHT	FRED GILMORE	BRONZE
	LIGHTWEIGHT	HARRY SPANGER	GOLD
	LIGHTWEIGHT	JACK EAGAN	SILVER
	LIGHTWEIGHT	RUSSELL VAN HORN	BRONZE
	WELTERWEIGHT	ALBERT YOUNG	GOLD
	WELTERWEIGHT	HARRY SPANGER	SILVER
	WELTERWEIGHT	JOSEPH LYDON	BRONZE
	WELTERWEIGHT	JACK EAGAN	BRONZE
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	CHARLES MAYER	GOLD
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	BENJAMIN SPRADLEY	SILVER
	HEAVYWEIGHT	SAMUEL BERGER	GOLD
	HEAVYWEIGHT	CHARLES MAYER	SILVER
	HEAVYWEIGHT	WILLIAM MICHAELS	BRONZE
1920	FLYWEIGHT	FRANKIE GENARO	GOLD
	LIGHTWEIGHT	SAMUEL MOSBERG	GOLD
	WELTERWEIGHT	FREDERICK COLBERG	BRONZE
	LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	EDDIE EAGAN	GOLD
1924	FLYWEIGHT	FIDEL LA BARBA	GOLD
	FLYWEIGHT	RAYMOND FEE	BRONZE
	BANTAMWEIGHT	SALVATORE TRIPOLI	SILVER
	FEATHERWEIGHT	JACKIE FIELDS	GOLD
	FEATHERWEIGHT	JOSEPH SALAS	SILVER
	LIGHTWEIGHT	FREDERICK BOYLSTEIN	BRONZE
1928	BANTAMWEIGHT	JOHN DALEY	SILVER
	FEATHERWEIGHT	HAROLD DEVINE	BRONZE
	LIGHTWEIGHT	STEPHEN HALAIKO	SILVER
1932	FLYWEIGHT	LOUIS SALICA	BRONZE
	LIGHTWEIGHT	NATHAN BOR	BRONZE
	WELTERWEIGHT	EDWARD FLYNN	GOLD
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	CARMEN BARTH	GOLD
	HEAVYWEIGHT	FREDERICK FEARY	BRONZE
1936	FLYWEIGHT	LOUIS LAURIA	BRONZE
	BANTAMWEIGHT	JACK WILSON	SILVER
1948	WELTERWEIGHT	HORACE HERRING	SILVER
1952	FLYWEIGHT	NATHAN BROOKS	GOLD
	LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT	CHARLES ADKINS	GOLD
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	FLOYD PATTERSON	GOLD
	LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	NORVEL LEE	GOLD
	HEAVYWEIGHT	EDWARD SANDERS	GOLD
1956	LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT	JOSÉ TORRES	SILVER
	LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	JIM BOYD	GOLD
	HEAVYWEIGHT	PETE RADEMACHER	GOLD
1960	LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT	QUINCEY DANIELS	BRONZE
	LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT	WILBERT MCCLURE	GOLD
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	EDWARD CROOK	GOLD
	LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	CASSIUS CLAY	GOLD
1964	FLYWEIGHT	ROBERT CARMODY	BRONZE
	FEATHERWEIGHT	CHARLES BROWN	BRONZE
	LIGHTWEIGHT	RONALD HARRIS	BRONZE
	HEAVYWEIGHT	JOE FRAZIER	GOLD
1968	LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	HARLAN MARBLEY	BRONZE
	FEATHERWEIGHT	ALBERT ROBINSON	SILVER
	LIGHTWEIGHT	RONALD HARRIS	GOLD
	LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT	JAMES WALLINGTON	BRONZE
	LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT	JOHN BALDWIN	BRONZE
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	ALFRED JONES	BRONZE
	HEAVYWEIGHT	GEORGE FOREMAN	GOLD
1972	BANTAMWEIGHT	RICARDO CARRERAS	BRONZE
	LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT	RAY SEALES	GOLD
	WELTERWEIGHT	JESSE VALDEZ	BRONZE
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	MARVIN JOHNSON	BRONZE



Ed Sanders (here stopping Hans Jost in a first-round match) became in 1952 the first American to win the heavyweight gold medal since 1932. Sanders died in 1954 from blows he took in a pro fight. Image: **THE RING**

YEAR	EVENT	ATHLETE	MEDAL
1976	FLYWEIGHT	LEO RANDOLPH	GOLD
	BANTAMWEIGHT	CHARLES MOONEY	SILVER
	LIGHTWEIGHT	HOWARD DAVIS	GOLD
	LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT	RAY LEONARD	GOLD
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	MICHAEL SPINKS	GOLD
	LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	LEON SPINKS	GOLD
	HEAVYWEIGHT	JOHN TATE	BRONZE
1984	LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	PAUL GONZALES	GOLD
	FLYWEIGHT	STEVEN MCCRORY	GOLD
	FEATHERWEIGHT	MELDRICK TAYLOR	GOLD
	LIGHTWEIGHT	PERNELL WHITAKER	GOLD
	LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT	JERRY PAGE	GOLD
	WELTERWEIGHT	MARK BRELAND	GOLD
	LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT	FRANK TATE	GOLD
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	VIRGIL HILL	SILVER
	LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	EVANDER HOLYFIELD	BRONZE
	HEAVYWEIGHT	HENRY TILLMAN	GOLD
	SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT	TYRELL BIGGS	GOLD
1988	LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	MICHAEL CARBAJAL	SILVER
	BANTAMWEIGHT	KENNEDY MCKINNEY	GOLD
	LIGHTWEIGHT	ROMALLIS ELLIS	BRONZE
	WELTERWEIGHT	KENNETH GOULD	BRONZE
	LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT	ROY JONES	SILVER
	LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	ANDREW MAYNARD	GOLD
	HEAVYWEIGHT	RAY MERCER	GOLD
	SUPER HEAVYWEIGHT	RIDDICK BOWE	SILVER
1992	FLYWEIGHT	TIMOTHY AUSTIN	BRONZE
	LIGHTWEIGHT	OSCAR DE LA HOYA	GOLD
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	CHRIS BYRD	SILVER
1996	FEATHERWEIGHT	FLOYD MAYWEATHER	BRONZE
	LIGHTWEIGHT	TERRANCE CAUTHEN	BRONZE
	LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT	DAVID REID	GOLD
	MIDDLEWEIGHT	RHOSHII WELLS	BRONZE
	LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	ANTONIO TARVER	BRONZE
	HEAVYWEIGHT	NATE JONES	BRONZE
2000	BANTAMWEIGHT	CLARENCE VINSON	BRONZE
	FEATHERWEIGHT	RICARDO JUAREZ	SILVER
	LIGHT WELTERWEIGHT	RICARDO WILLIAMS	SILVER
	LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHT	JERMAIN TAYLOR	BRONZE
2004	MIDDLEWEIGHT	ANDRE DIRRELL	BRONZE
	LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	ANDRE WARD	GOLD
2008	HEAVYWEIGHT	DEONTAY WILDER	BRONZE

AIBA RANKINGS AS OF MAY 1

MEN

RANKING	NAME	COUNTRY
46-49 KG (101-108 POUNDS)		
1ST	SHIN, JONG HUN	KOREA
2ND	ALIZADA, SALMAN	AZERBAIJAN
3RD	ZOU, SHIMING	CHINA
52 KG (114 POUNDS)		
1ST	ALOIAN, MISHA	RUSSIA
2ND	SELBY, ANDREW CHRISTOPHER	WALES
3RD	MAMISHZADE, ELVIN	AZERBAIJAN
56 KG (123 POUNDS)		
1ST	YUSUNOV, ANVAR	TAJIKISTAN
2ND	A. ESTRADA, LAZARO JORGE	CUBA
3RD	CAMPBELL, LUKE	ENGLAND
60 KG (132 POUNDS)		
1ST	TOLEDO LOPEZ, YASNIEL	CUBA
2ND	VALENTINO, DOMENICO	ITALY
3RD	LOMACHENKO, VASYL	UKRAINE
64 KG (141 POUNDS)		
1ST	STALKER, THOMAS LEE	ENGLAND
2ND	DOS SANTOS LOPES, EVERTON	BRAZIL
3RD	URANCHIMEG, MUNKHERDENE	MONGOLIA
69 KG (152 POUNDS)		
1ST	SHELESTYUK, TARAS	UKRAINE
2ND	VIKAS, KRISHAN	INDIA
3RD	EVANS, FREDDIE WILLIAMS	WALES
75 KG (165 POUNDS)		
1ST	KHYTROV, IEVGEN	UKRAINE
2ND	MURATA, RYOTA	JAPAN
3RD	O'NEILL, DARREN	IRELAND
81 KG (178 POUNDS)		
1ST	LA CRUZ PERAZA, JULIO CESAR	CUBA
2ND	HOOPER, DAMIEN DUNCAN	AUSTRALIA
3RD	WARD, JOSEPH	IRELAND
91 KG (200 POUNDS)		
1ST	MAMMADOV, TEYMUR	AZERBAIJAN
2ND	WANG, XUANXUAN	CHINA
3RD	USYK, OLEKSANDR	UKRAINE
91+ KG (OVER 200 POUNDS)		
1ST	MEDZHIDOV, MAGOMEDRASUL	AZERBAIJAN
2ND	HRGOVIC, FILIP	CROATIA
3RD	CAMMARELLE, ROBERTO	ITALY

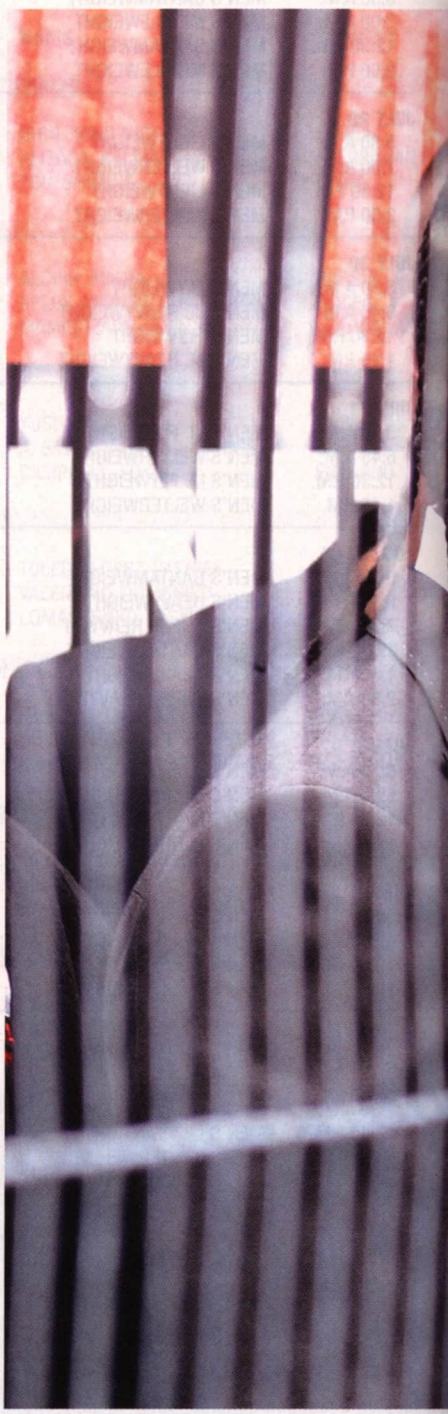
JULY 28		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - ROUND OF 32
7:00 A.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 32
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - ROUND OF 32
2:00 P.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 32
JULY 29		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 32
7:00 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - ROUND OF 32
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 32
2:00 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - ROUND OF 32
JULY 30		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - ROUND OF 32
6:45 A.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - ROUND OF 32
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - ROUND OF 32
1:45 P.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - ROUND OF 32
JULY 31		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - ROUND OF 32
6:45 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - ROUND OF 32
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - ROUND OF 32
1:45 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - ROUND OF 32
AUGUST 01		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - ROUND OF 16
7:30 A.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - ROUND OF 16
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - ROUND OF 16
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - ROUND OF 16
AUGUST 02		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 16
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 16
AUGUST 03		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - ROUND OF 16
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - ROUND OF 16
AUGUST 04		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - ROUND OF 16
7:30 A.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - ROUND OF 16
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - ROUND OF 16
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - ROUND OF 16
AUGUST 05		
5:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(51KG) - ROUND OF 16
6:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - ROUND OF 16
7:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - ROUND OF 16
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - QUARTERFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - QUARTERFINALS
AUGUST 06		
5:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(51KG) - QUARTERFINALS
6:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - QUARTERFINALS
7:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - QUARTERFINALS
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - QUARTERFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - QUARTERFINALS
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - QUARTERFINALS
AUGUST 07		
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - QUARTERFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - QUARTERFINALS
AUGUST 08		
5:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(51KG) - SEMIFINALS
6:00 A.M.	WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - SEMIFINALS
6:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - SEMIFINALS
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - QUARTERFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - QUARTERFINALS
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - QUARTERFINALS
AUGUST 09		
8:30 A.M.	WOMEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(51KG) - FINAL
8:45 A.M.	WOMEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - FINAL
9:15 A.M.	WOMEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - FINAL
AUGUST 10		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - SEMIFINALS
6:00 A.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - SEMIFINALS
6:30 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - SEMIFINALS
7:00 A.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - SEMIFINALS
7:30 A.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - SEMIFINALS
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - SEMIFINALS
1:00 P.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - SEMIFINALS
1:30 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - SEMIFINALS
2:00 P.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - SEMIFINALS
2:30 P.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - SEMIFINALS
AUGUST 11		
12:30 P.M.	MEN'S LT. FLYWEIGHT	(49KG) - FINAL
12:45 P.M.	MEN'S BANTAMWEIGHT	(56KG) - FINAL
1:15 P.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(64KG) - FINAL
1:45 P.M.	MEN'S MIDDLEWEIGHT	(75KG) - FINAL
2:15 P.M.	MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT	(91KG) - FINAL
AUGUST 12		
5:30 A.M.	MEN'S FLYWEIGHT	(52KG) - FINAL
5:45 A.M.	MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT	(60KG) - FINAL
6:15 A.M.	MEN'S WELTERWEIGHT	(69KG) - FINAL
6:45 A.M.	MEN'S LT. HEAVYWEIGHT	(81KG) - FINAL
7:15 A.M.	MEN'S SUPER HEAVYWT	(+91KG) - FINAL

NOTE: *ALL TIMES ARE PACIFIC STANDARD TIME. PLEASE CHECK LISTINGS IN YOUR AREA TO DETERMINE TELEVISION COVERAGE.*

The boxing will take place at **Excel London**. Image: **Julian Finney-Getty Images**

ANARCHY IN THE UK

By **Gareth A. Davies**



LONDON — A precedent in the UK has been set with the announcement of David Haye and Dereck Chisora settling their feud after the brawl in Munich with a heavyweight grudge match in an East London football stadium. It could gross 15 million U.S. dollars and the stadium will be set up for 40,000 spectators. There will be few seats empty, and for British fight channel BoxNation, it could provide around half a million subscribers, or more, on the night.

Within the act, the authority and sovereignty of the British Boxing Board of Control has been undermined. Due to the fact Chisora was not put on the European Boxing Union "banned" list, when the Boxing Board "withdrew" his license on three counts of indiscipline on March 14, this fight has been sanctioned legally under European freedom of trade laws in the single market.

Imagine the athletic commission in Washington, D.C., having stepped in to sanction Lamont Peterson against Amir Khan in Nevada. Get the picture? This is a major story. It will rumble on. As will Haye and Chisora — straight to the bank on July 15. Prize fighting is the easiest sport on the planet to hit over the head with a moral sledgehammer, and this gave every critic of the sport the opportunity to lambast two fighters benefitting by huge sums of money from an unsavory brawl for which neither man was punished, or disciplined.

Terry Spinks was 18 when he became Britain's youngest Olympic champion. Image: **Popperfoto-Getty Images**

TERRY SPINKS: RIP

Terry Spinks passed away late in April, still clutching the mantle of Britain's youngest Olympic boxing gold medalist, a baby-faced flyweight at the age of 18, at the Melbourne Games of 1956. He was 74 and had been ill for some time, ravaged by alcoholic excess. Dick McTaggart, 76 years old, he too a gold medalist at lightweight in those Games, was sobbing when he told your correspondent that it was "a body blow, like a death in the family."

Spinks and McTaggart were inseparable lads, Spinks with the

The authority of the British Boxing Board of Control has been undermined with the making of the **David Haye-Dereck Chisora fight.**

Image: **Dave J Hogan-Getty Images**

pranks, McTaggart with the laughter. The Scotsman told me that the cheeky Eastender, called to the Games as a late replacement from his job as a trash collector on London's docks, "looked like a wee child" when he travelled to Australia with the team. He went on to win the British flyweight title as a pro and retired aged 24. Spinks evoked many memories — most of them funny — from those who adored him when he entered into his eternal second on April 26. He remains the only boxer to win schoolboy, ABA, British and Olympic championship titles.

Terry's life was riddled with anomalies. He had been an apprentice jockey and had weight issues. He bought a sweet shop. He had drinking problems — he bought a pub. He made many, many friends. He never lost them. RIP Mr. Spinks.

HATTON'S TV SETBACK

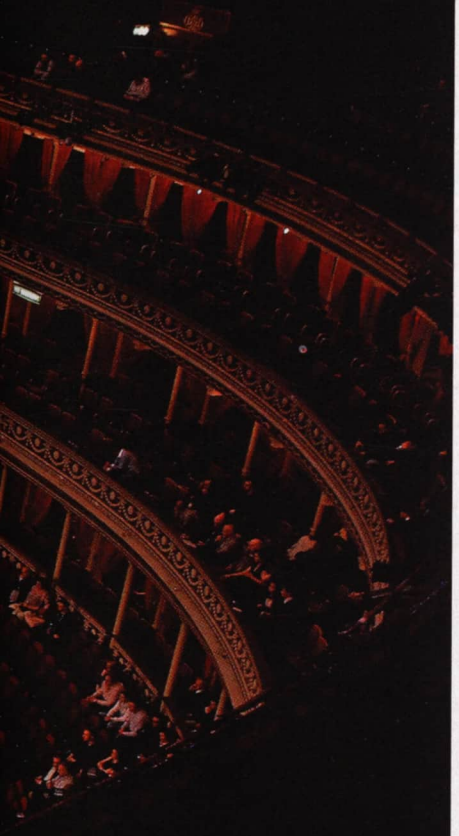
Ricky Hatton and Sky Sports were once bedfellows. Together they spawned tens of thousands of Ricky-followers, a tune for the ages as only one of him in a Winter Wonderland was chanted through the vaults of the MGM Grand, Las Vegas, until the bars were run dry of alcohol, and 30,000 fans were hoarse.

For Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao fights, the legions of blue collar men from Manchester flocked to the Mojave Desert. Three years into his promotional career, and with a stable of around 20 boxers, Hatton received a brief email from Barney Francis, head of Sky Sports, in May, notifying the former two-weight world champion that they would not be renewing his 20-shows-a-year after July of this year. Hatton, Sky Box Office's leading pay-per-view draw as a fighter in the last 20 years, branded the executives as "disloyal." He remains hugely popular with media, fans and within boxing circles. He will find his feet again as a promoter alongside a television network. He just needs to rediscover that ruthless streak he had as a fighter.

RETURN TO ROYAL ALBERT HALL

The Royal Albert Hall, in Knightsbridge, fits boxing like silk hand wraps. It is the most bespoke of arenas in London. To be back in the old venue late in April – after a 13-year absense - was like looking into the face of a familiar, childhood friend. Its bullring shape and ornate tiers with private boxes makes it one of the most iconic fight venues anywhere on the planet. In 1999, we had watched Marco Antonio Barrera slash Paul Lloyd to pieces in one round with his rapier hands. Young Hatton was on the undercard, 20 years old and on the rise. The smell was familiar; the absense too long. Topping the bill on April 28 due to the withdrawal of WBO 175-pound titleholder Nathan Cleverly, was middleweight Billy Joe Saunders, a traveler from a caravan site just outside London's northern suburbs.

Saunders landed a heavy right-hand counter in the opening exchanges against Tony Hill and then



The Royal Albert Hall probably is the most-elegant boxing venue in the world.

Image: **Scott Heavey-Getty Images**

landed a barrage of punches to the head of his foe on the ropes. In 30 seconds, Saunders moved to 13-0 and claimed the Commonwealth crown. Saunders was the youngest British Olympian in Beijing, and despite two hand surgeries since then, is a fine prospect and could become the first 'traveler' from UK shores to hold a world title belt.

Still a way to go, but keep an eye on him – versatile, tough, and determined to reach the pinnacle. Frank Warren, the English promoter, intends to bring six to eight events a year to the Albert Hall. The beauty of the place is that with 3,000 spectators and the acoustics the atmosphere has an intimacy and glamor which is mesmerizing.

Boxing has fought hard to be there. In recent times, local residents had objected to it, but those objections were overturned last year. History was simply repeating itself. The venue, opened in 1871 by Queen Victoria, first had applications to stage boxing events there in 1893, but King George V — as patron — had "disapproved of the introduction of professional pugilists into the Hall."

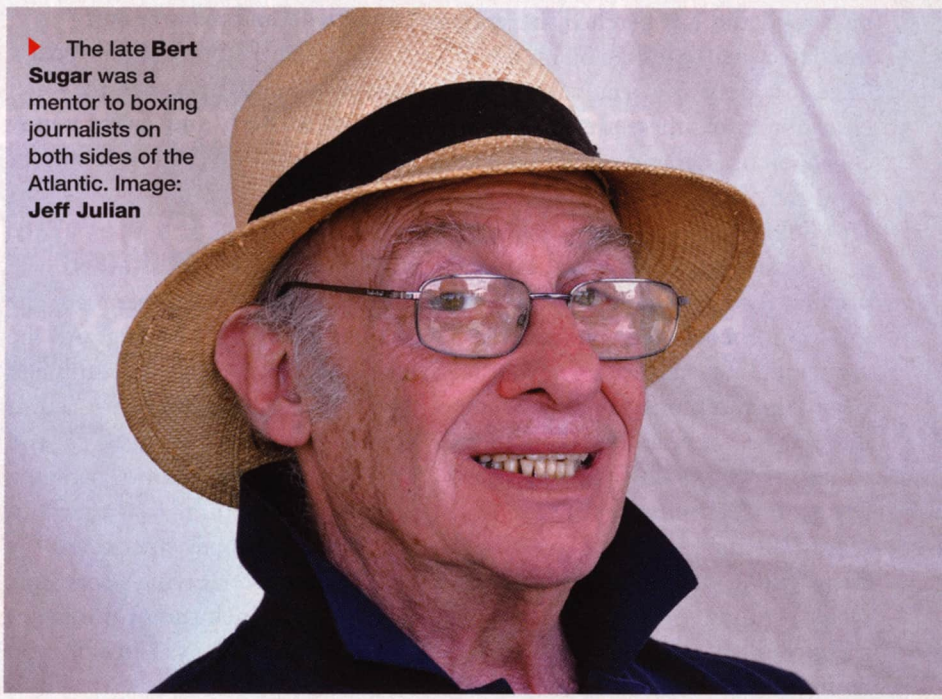
It wasn't until December 1918 that the Imperial Services Boxing Association first brought boxing there with the British Empire vs. the American Services.

That led to a series of boxing events involving some of the greatest boxers of the time, including Georges Carpentier and Jimmy Wilde. In 1951, the three Kray brothers, the notorious gangland twins Reggie and Ron, together with their elder brother Charlie, appeared on the same bill; Muhammad Ali boxed an eight-round exhibition bout on October 19, 1971, and returned on May 29, 1979. Prince Naseem, Lennox Lewis (seven times) and Frank Bruno (15 times) all followed. This is a welcome return to a hallowed European fight Mecca.

MENTOR ACROSS THE ATLANTIC DIVIDE

It would be remiss of me not to mention the privilege I had spending an afternoon in December of last year with the late, great Bert Randolph Sugar at his wooden colonial home in Chappaqua, N.Y. Bert was a mentor to so many of us as writers in boxing. He was generous in his time, advice and stories. Hiring a car and driving there from Brooklyn three days after Amir Khan had lost to Lamont Peterson, and four days before Carl Froch was about to be comprehensively outboxed and outfoxed by Andre Ward, Bert ushered me into his study, where, it has to be said, there were chairs and tables made from books, most of which he had written. He spoke all afternoon. We talked of Ali, Foreman, Frazier — he recalled that Smokin' Joe had delighted in telling him tales of stealing cars in Manhattan and driving to Philadelphia, where he dumped them — and, as always, was like a runaway train with his one-liners, pausing afterward for the requisite laughter. Every joke was an old treasure.

Pulling a tartan blanket around him on a chair, cigar screwed into



The late **Bert Sugar** was a mentor to boxing journalists on both sides of the Atlantic. Image: **Jeff Julian**

The mother of **Jamie Wood** (left) believes boxing saved the life of her son, who has battled back from cancer. Image: **Courtesy of Jamie Wood**

place and the hat perched, he gestured to a small package on his desk. "I've just done my regular 35-year clear out. Look, these are for you, a collection of English boxing annuals from the '50s." It was a bundle of Jack Solomon's boxing yearbooks.

I drove away that afternoon praying for his good health. He cajoled and encouraged younger writers, embraced mavericks and was one of the old Lions. I felt a love for him. He sent a little note thereafter, to my home, which read: "Thanks to my English chum, you sat patiently listening to all the jokes I've been telling for 15 years which weren't funny when I told myself them the first time. Thanks for listening to the Great White Hopeless. Your friend and mentor, Bert."

Shipping the books home cost a hefty sum. But it was my personal homage to Bert, and every penny was worth it. We'll all miss him at the big fights.

HEALING POWER OF BOXING

Jamie Wood is testament to the healing power of boxing. All he has ever wanted is to become a professional boxer. Cancer tried to destroy that. In 2010, aged 17 and after eight amateur bouts, a raging headache made him visit the family doctor. A biopsy uncovered the rare bone cancer Ewing's sarcoma, revealing a 2-inch tumor in his upper mouth which was pushing on to his brain.

Two major operations followed — to remove the roof of his mouth, eight teeth, bone around the area and his right sinuses. Sixteen separate sessions of chemotherapy followed. None of this stopped him training.

Then, on November 29 of last year, Jamie had a 13-hour operation to have bone and tissue taken from his shoulder blade to put into his mouth to reconstruct what doctors had removed. Ten surgeons performed the operation. He was on a life-support machine and had 35 staples put into his back where they had excavated the bone for his reconstruction. A 3-inch cut to the side of his neck was used for the blood supply to keep the bone tissue alive.

He was supposed to stay in the hospital for three weeks. At first, he couldn't move, eat, talk or drink. Yet after five days, he had made a miraculous recovery. He went home two days later. Five weeks later, he ran 12 miles. He is being called "the Lance Armstrong of boxing." In May, he was given the all-clear from cancer and the medical clearance to box again. He was scheduled to have his ninth amateur fight, in his home county of Berkshire, on June 23. On October 12, he will box former two-weight world champion Joe Calzaghe at a fund-raising event for the Royal Marsden Hospital, which saved his life. Many children there are in their last days.

In 2014, Jamie intends to join boxing's paid ranks. "We are so lucky to still have him here, as most have died from the same rare cancer," Jamie's mother, Tracey, told me. "I believe boxing has saved his life." Boxing can heal. And for many, it remains a blessing. ■

Gareth A Davies is Boxing Correspondent for The Telegraph, London.

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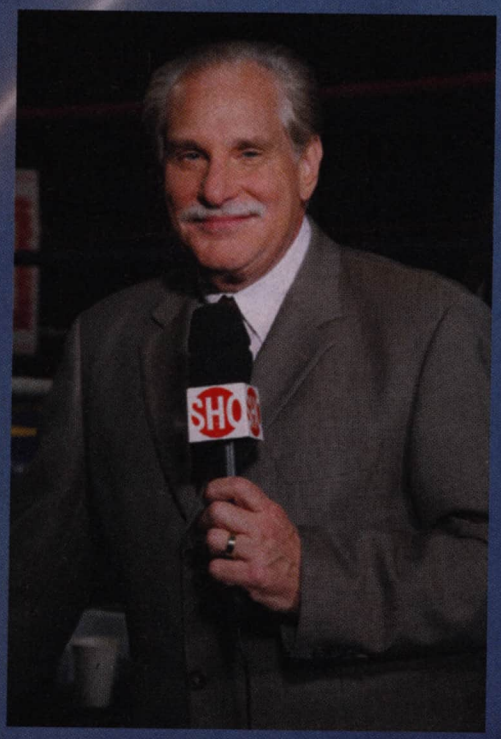

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FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. RECEIVED SURPRISINGLY STIFF RESISTANCE FROM MIGUEL COTTO BUT STILL EMERGED WITH A ONE-SIDED VICTORY

By **Michael Rosenthal**

LAS VEGAS – Floyd Mayweather Jr. gave us one of his most-memorable victories against surprisingly tough Miguel Cotto on May 5, perhaps his going-away gift to boxing fans as he prepared to begin his jail term on June 1.

The question afterward might've been this: *Why* was it memorable?

Mayweather said in his less-than-gracious way that he chose to engage his stubborn opponent to give the fans a show, that he could've won easily had he chosen to stay on his toes and box throughout.

How insulting was that given Cotto's effort?

Of course, we know better than to believe Mayweather. The fact he had to overcome more adversity than usual had a lot to do with Cotto and possibly the fact the unbeaten champion is 35.

Cotto, 31 himself, was dismissed by many as damaged goods since he was pummeled by Antonio Margarito in 2008 and then overwhelmed by Manny Pacquiao the following year.

The Puerto Rican remained an elite fighter, as he proved by exacting revenge on Margarito in December, but didn't have the tools — read: speed — to cope with an opponent as swift and gifted as Mayweather. Or so it seemed.

Cotto had more going for him than many of us saw, though. He might not be as skillful as Mayweather but few in his field are better. That reality, a good game plan (smart pressure, pressure, pressure) and superb conditioning were destined to give Mayweather trouble and earn Cotto admiration.

And, oh yeah, Cotto had more thing: pride. The old warrior, who has been in so many big fights, was never intimidated by Mayweather or his reputation.

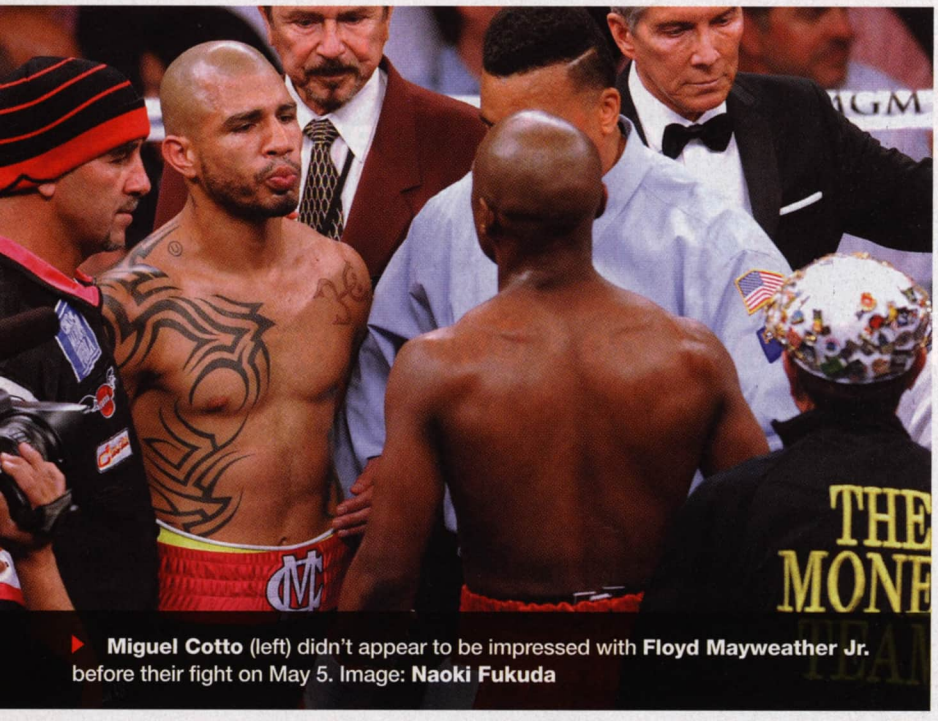
The result was a fight that was much more competitive and entertaining than anyone but the most-astute experts expected. Mayweather's bobbing, weaving and shoulder rolls made him an elusive target; Cotto landed only 21 percent of his punches, according to CompuBox.

And while Mayweather had only a 26-percent connect rate, he won rounds by countering effectively and often getting the better of brutal inside exchanges.

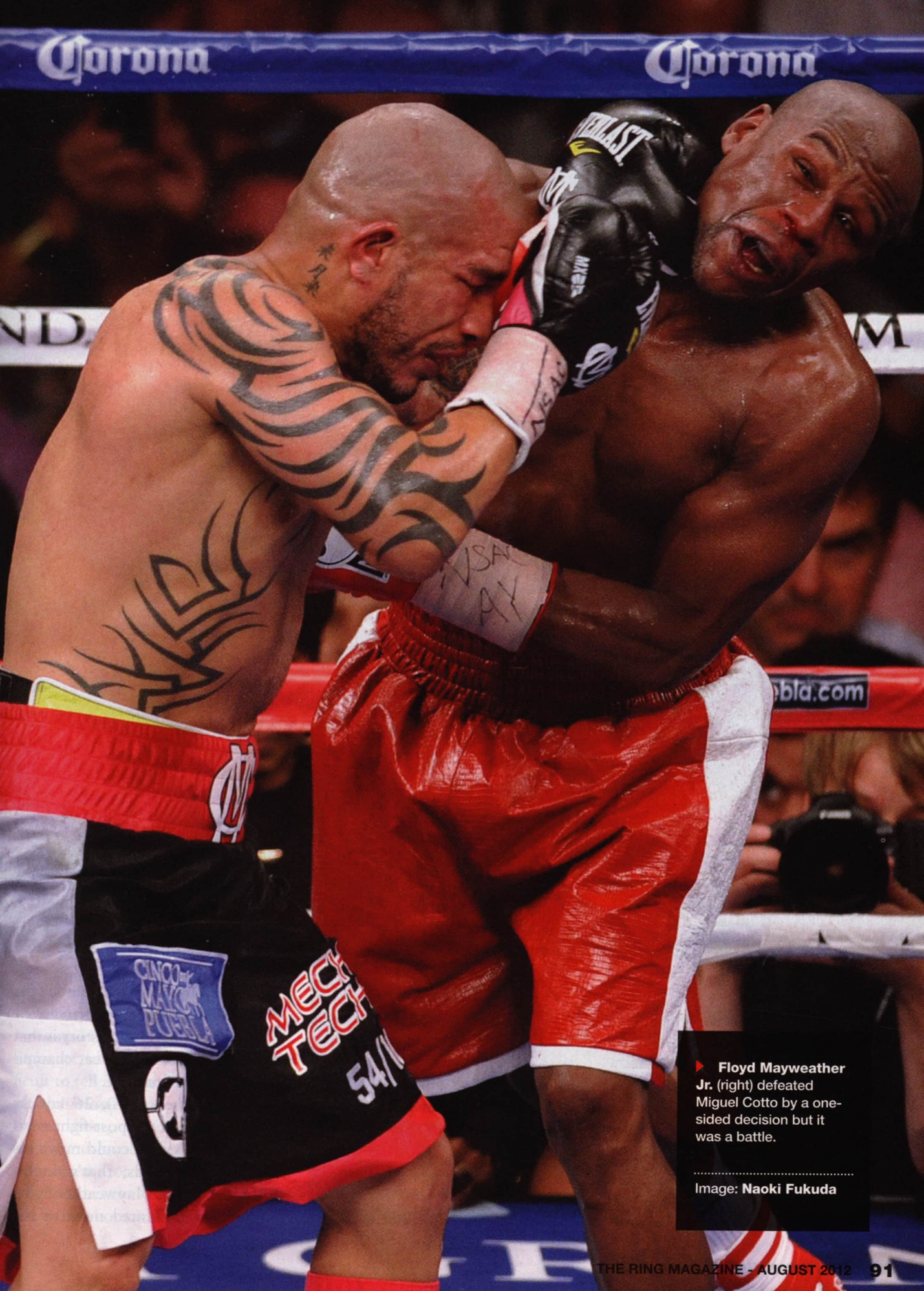
However, Mayweather cannot deny two things: He had to work extremely hard and took more punishment that he has in his previous five fights combined. His bloody nose was telling.

Cotto forced Mayweather to fight with his combination of ability and sheer determination, pounding away at his superior foe every chance he had — and he had many chances — as a grateful pro-Cotto crowd of 16,047 at the MGM Grand went crazy.

The almost-constant cheering — COTTO! COTTO! COTTO! — was



Miguel Cotto (left) didn't appear to be impressed with **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** before their fight on May 5. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**



Floyd Mayweather Jr. (right) defeated Miguel Cotto by a one-sided decision but it was a battle.

Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

Floyd Mayweather Jr. (left) found his target enough to win rounds consistently even if it wasn't a dominating performance. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

surrealistic (and a pleasant surprise) given that the normally boring Mayweather was one of the combatants.

Mayweather closed the show like a champ, tapping his reserves to land a number of hard, accurate punches that buckled Cotto's knees and came fairly close to taking him out in the 12th and final round.

When it was over, the fighters and the crowd spent, Mayweather was awarded a onesided decision that gave him Cotto's WBA junior middleweight title: 118-110 (or 10-2 in rounds) on one card and 117-111 on the other two, which seemed to reflect the observations of most observers. THE RING scored it 116-112.

Those numbers told part of the story, that even when Mayweather faces a stiff challenge he can win convincingly. That says a lot about the man's once-in-a-generation ability.

The other part of the story is that we might've seen the great champion slip for the first time.

Mayweather (43-0, 26 knockouts) implied at the post-fight news conference that he could move his feet for 12 rounds; that's doubtful. More likely, Mayweather fights with his feet planted most of the

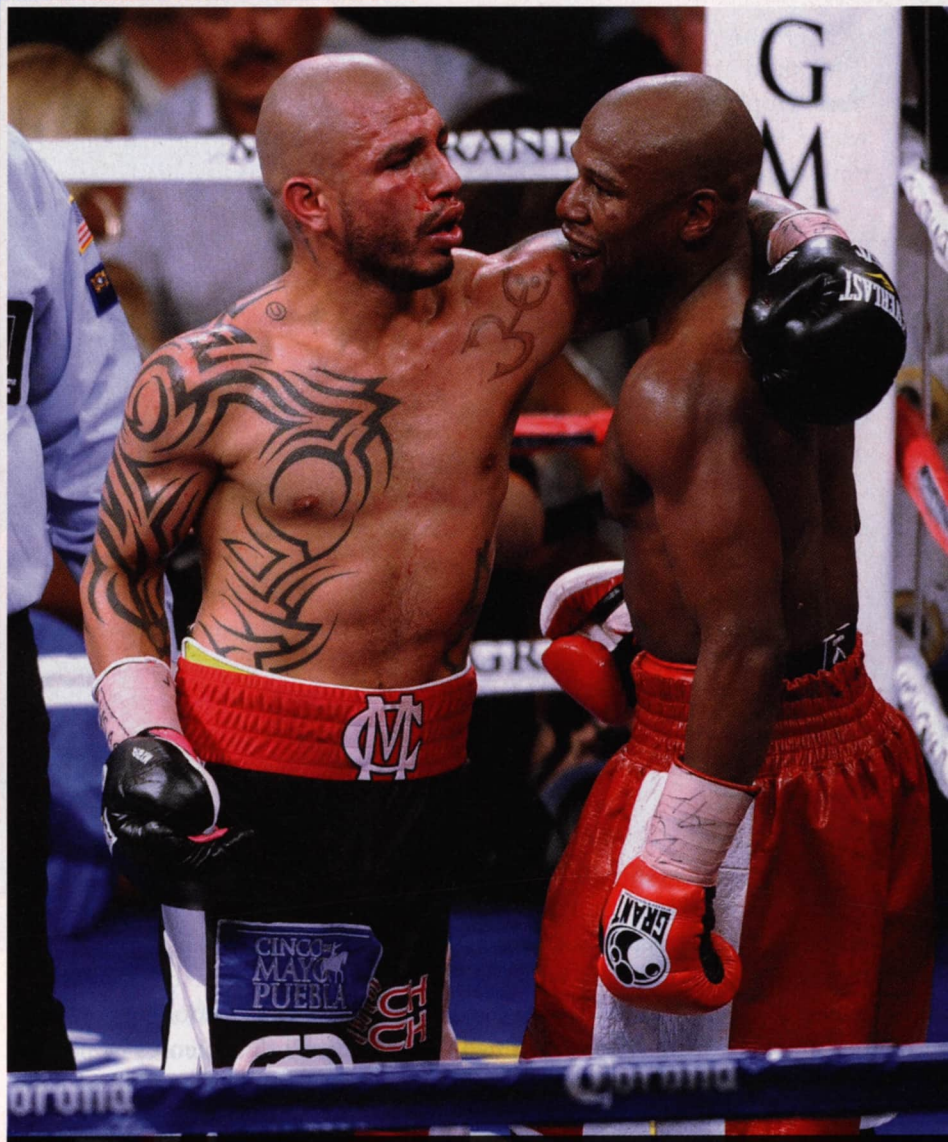
Naturally, talk of the ever-elusive showdown between Mayweather and Pacquiao came up at the news conference. Mayweather pooh-poohed it, insisting it will never happen because Pacquiao's promoter Bob Arum doesn't want it to happen.

Of course, it'll happen if the fighters want it to happen; they ultimately call the shots.

If it does happen — assuming Pacquiao got past capable Timothy Bradley on June 9 — it could be a lot more competitive than many believed before the clang of the bell to start the Mayweather-Cotto fight. ■

time because it is more difficult these days to stay perpetually in motion. His hand speed seems to be intact, although it would be difficult to tell if Cotto (37-3, 30 KOs) also has slowed down.

In short, Mayweather might just be more vulnerable that any of us realized. Cotto didn't quite have what it takes to do the unthinkable. But what about Manny Pacquiao?



Miguel Cotto and **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** expressed mutual respect after their fight. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

WHERE DOES HOPKINS RATE?

THE AGELESS ONE, WHO FELL TO CHAD DAWSON IN APRIL, CERTAINLY HAS BEEN ONE OF A KIND

By **Bernard Fernandez**

So now that it's over for Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins, if indeed it is over, where does boxing's Methuselah rank among boxing's all-time best?

List-makers being the anxious lot that they are, figuring out where B-Hop rates in historical pecking orders was one of the first orders of business after the 47-year-old legend lost his RING light heavyweight championship and WBC title via a 12-round majority decision to Chad Dawson on April 28 in Atlantic City, N.J. Oh, sure, Hopkins is obstinate enough and egotistical enough to believe he can take another sip from a drying Fountain of Youth, but his senior-citizen status, lack of title belts to dangle as bait and a defensive style that hasn't been box-office boffo for years mitigate against another return to glory. Coming off a reasonably convincing points defeat to Dawson, Hopkins could now be faced between reluctantly choosing retirement and offering what remains of himself at reduced prices to middle-of-the-pack or fringe contenders, of the sort another 40-something legend, Evander Holyfield, has had to accept once his glowing star power began to lose its luminescence.

Given that Hopkins' greatest successes took place at middleweight — a division-record 20 defenses spread over 10 years, including victories over Felix Trinidad, Oscar De La Hoya, Glen Johnson, Joe Lipsey and Keith Holmes, among others — there is a feeling that that is where the truest measure of his legacy lies, more so even than at light heavyweight, where he also made a mark, especially as an age-resistant marvel who routinely schooled fighters young enough to be his son.

So where should Hopkins be placed in the pantheon of the most celebrated 160-pounders ever to grace the prize ring? Does he merit a patch of space at the peak of the same lofty mountaintop alongside Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Harry Greb, Carlos Monzon, Sugar Ray Robinson and Jake La Motta?

"I think he's a Top 5 middleweight," said Gary Shaw, Dawson's promoter, who apparently is as appreciative of Hopkins' skill and durability as he is of his mastery of the subtle foul. "Look at how long he went, all the defenses he made.

"Bernard is a true Hall of Famer, one of the greatest fighters I've ever been associated with. I never had the privilege of promoting him, but for sure I'm a big fan of his."

Then again, maybe Shaw wouldn't have considered the role of Hopkins' promoter such a privilege had he actually had it. Another part of the Hopkins legacy which must be addressed is the fractious relationship he had with many of those who

Bernard Hopkins (left) demonstrated that he remains crafty at 47 but, in the end, he couldn't cope with an opponent as slick and quick as **Chad Dawson.**

Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

were charged with staging his matches. Butch Lewis, Don King, Lou DiBella and Dan Goossen all have horror tales of what it was like to deal with Hopkins, whose 56-month stretch as a guest of the Pennsylvania penal system forever shaped his outlook on life. The perpetually leery former street tough was not content to let others handle his business dealings, and his increasing reliance on his own counsel became as much a part of who and what he was as his successes between the ropes.

Ever the contrarian, Hopkins seemed to draw strength from the knowledge that his most significant victories were against fighters who were favored to beat him (Trinidad, Antonio Tarver, Kelly Pavlik) and were an irritant to boxing's power

brokers who, he was convinced, were forever conspiring to run him out of the sport. The fact he was able to maintain a reasonably harmonious relationship with Golden Boy Promotions, which he joined shortly after he knocked out De La Hoya, the "Golden Boy" himself, in 2004, is almost as remarkable as his nearly unmatched 24-year career as one of boxing's finest and most durable practitioners.

back. My game is hitting you and not letting you hit me. That's how you have longevity. I can take you out of your comfort zone and remove the best weapon from your arsenal. I can make you afraid to use it because you know you're going to pay a price for even trying."

The same iron discipline that enabled Hopkins to say no to cookies and fried foods for two decades, along with his defensive virtuosity,

"WE KNEW BERNARD WAS A TRICKY FIGHTER. HE'S VERY SLICK. HE PICKS HIS PUNCHES VERY WELL, DOESN'T WASTE ANY ENERGY. I KNEW IF I MADE ONE MISTAKE, HE'D PICK RIGHT UP ON IT."

– CHAD DAWSON

"I didn't get soft. I got wise," Hopkins, in the lead-up to his second pairing with Dawson (the first of which resulted in a no-contest) said of his evolution as a fighter, both in and out of the ring. "And I'm special. It takes someone special to still be around at 47, and to still be one of the best. But while I am blessed with some natural gifts, the rest of it came through sweat and effort. I had to work hard, very hard, to become as special as I am."

The early Hopkins — "The Executioner" of legend and lore — was guillotine-swift. Sixteen of his first 21 victories were inside the distance, 13 coming in the very first round. But Hopkins observed that stand-and-trade guys, while crowd-pleasers, did not enjoy long careers, or at least long primes. So Hopkins evolved into more of a defensive specialist, parceling out punishment in measured doses while proving a phantom to big-punching opponents who found him to be a most uncooperative target. The guillotine had been replaced by death from a thousand nicks.

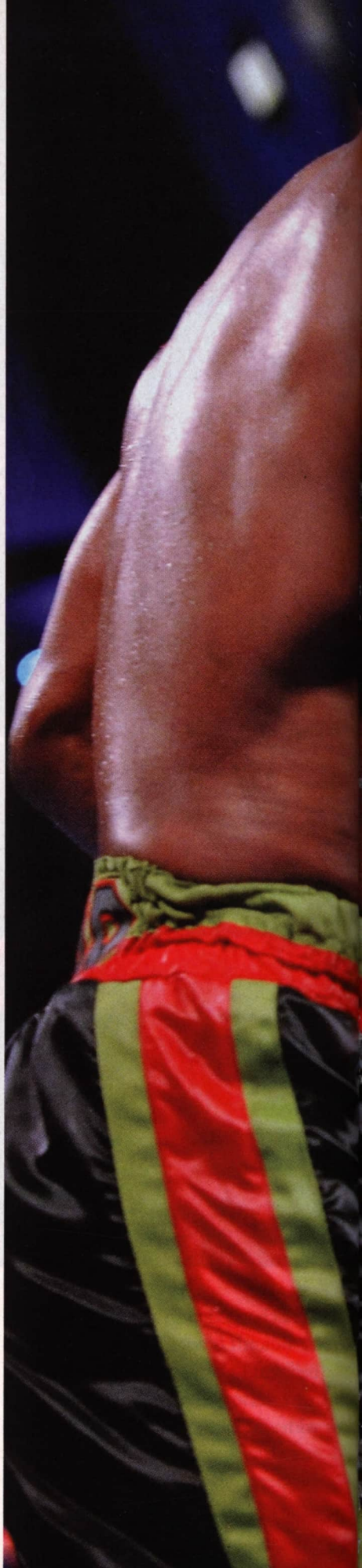
"Boxing is an art," he said. "It's all about hitting and not getting hit

kept him at the top long past what should have been any fighter's natural expiration date. It might not have been an ongoing thrill show, but damn, it was effective.

Give Dawson credit for doing what he had to do. Judges Richard Flaherty and Steve Weisfeld each had him winning by 117-111, which seems about right. Luis Rivera saw it as a 114-114 standoff, which doesn't.

"We knew Bernard was a tricky fighter," Dawson said after he'd regained the light heavyweight crown. "He's very slick. He picks his punches very well, doesn't waste any energy. I knew if I made one mistake, he'd pick right up on it."

Maybe this isn't the way Hopkins wanted to go out, but if it is, let it be noted that he never embarrassed himself. He never was stopped, or even took a serious drubbing. He was one of a kind, and his likes probably never will be seen again. ■



Bernard Hopkins (left) had enhanced his legacy by beating younger fighters but met his match in **Chad Dawson**.

Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

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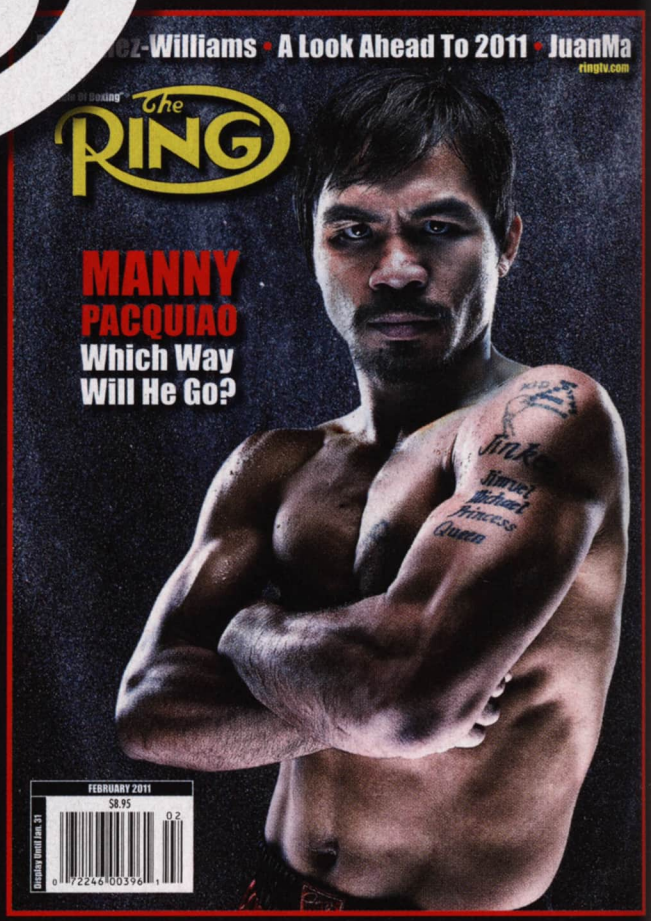

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COMPILED BY **MIKE COPPINGER**

Paulie Malignaggi (left) stunned many when he went to **Vyacheslav Senchenko's** home country and came back with the WBA welterweight belt. Image: **Efrem Lukatsky-Associated Press**

PAULIE MALIGNAGGI TKO 9
VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO

DATE: APRIL 29, 2012
SITE: DONBASS ARENA, DONETSK, UKRAINE
DIVISION: WELTERWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: MALIGNAGGI 145 ¾; 146 ½
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): MALIGNAGGI UNRANKED; SENCHENKO NO. 6
NETWORK: INTEGRATED SPORTS PPV

A boxing rarity occurred overseas in hostile territory and just when it was most needed for the fighter — a Paulie Malignaggi stoppage victory.

Malignaggi entered his welterweight title bout against the favored Senchenko with just six knockouts on his ledger, but earned perhaps the best win of his career — and certainly the best knockout — wresting the title away from Senchenko in his native Ukraine.

The 31-year-old native of Brooklyn, N.Y., beat Senchenko (32-1, 21 knockouts) to the punch, displaying the excellent quickness which has guided him to many a victory and kept him undefeated since moving up from junior welterweight in late 2010.

Malignaggi (31-4, 7 KOs), known for his brittle hands, engaged in some entertaining exchanges with the 2000 Olympian, perhaps taking THE RING's No. 10 147-pounder by surprise. Malignaggi peppered Senchenko's face and zoned in on his left eye, causing it to bleed profusely. The lids were already closing in the sixth, but by the eighth round it was clear Senchenko no longer had vision out of the grotesquely swollen eye.

Malignaggi, THE RING's No. 7 welterweight, wisely continued to hone in on the damaged region and referee Steve Smoger, known for allowing fighters to absorb punishment, correctly stopped the bout, awarding Malignaggi the TKO victory at 1:46 of round nine.

Suddenly, Malignaggi — who has lost to Amir Khan, Miguel Cotto and Ricky Hatton — is once again a major player in boxing, especially with the opening of the Barclays Center in Brooklyn just around the corner. The first card — all of which will be promoted by Malignaggi's promoter, Golden Boy — is slated for Oct. 20 and it's possible the Brooklynite will headline with a title defense.

"Considering all of the pressure in this fight, and considering the circumstances surrounding this fight, you could make a case that this was my best and most complete performance," Malignaggi told THE RING's Lem Satterfield immediately after his win. "I had to travel outside of the country, I had to deal with some controversy, I had to deal with people probably writing me off and thinking that I'm done."

For the Freddie Roach-trained Senchenko, it's back to the drawing board, as he lost the first time he stepped up in class and is a bit of an enigma at this juncture.

Marco Huck (right) and Ola Afolabi engaged in an entertaining cruiserweight draw.

Image: Bongarts-Getty Images

MARCO HUCK D 12 OLA AFOLABI

DATE: MAY 5, 2012
SITE: MESSEHALLE, ERFURT, GERMANY
DIVISION: CRUISERWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: HUCK 198 ½; AFOLABI 199
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): HUCK NO. 1; AFOLABI NO. 5
NETWORK: BOXNATION (UK)

Marco Huck edged Ola Afolabi in their first cruiserweight title tilt in December 2009, a razor-thin affair. The second go-around, the bout was even closer as they battled to an action-packed draw in Huck's return to cruiserweight after fighting Alexander Povetkin at heavyweight in late February – quite a short layoff for a fighter of his caliber.

One judge had it 115-113 for Huck, overruled by scores of 114-114 and 114-114, a majority draw.

Afolabi (19-2-3, 9 KOs), THE RING's No. 4-rated cruiserweight, appeared to drop Huck in the second round, but referee Robert Byrd called it a slip.

The 32-year-old native of London controlled the first half of the bout, deploying his sneaky right as he bobbed and weaved out of harm's way, sticking and moving. Huck had no answers for his movement and athleticism, as evidenced by the blood spouting from what was perhaps a broken nose.

"Captain" Huck (34-2, 25 KOs), THE RING's No. 1-rated cruiserweight, held his gloves up high, but Afolabi punched through his guard as Huck, 27, laid on the ropes and attempted to pick off Afolabi's punches, to no avail.

Afolabi worked the body, winging combinations. But Huck came on in round six, landing uppercuts on the inside and finding his target more often.

Afolabi's right eye began to close in the middle rounds as Huck began to zero in on it. The pace slowed, more to Huck's liking, and he won in-close exchanges using his superior strength.

Huck had Afolabi reeling badly in the waning moments of round nine. He rocked him with power shots and tried to put his foe down, but Afolabi was saved by the bell.

In round 10, Afolabi acquitted himself nicely, apparently clear of any cobwebs, as he controlled the frame, pushing Huck to the ropes.

The championship rounds were spirited, with the pair fighting aggressively for the remainder of the bout. The 12th round in particular was a grueling stanza, with both fighters throwing caution to the wind and letting their hands go with power shots, a sure-fire candidate for round of the year.

"Everyone was telling me how good the fight was," Afolabi told THE RING. "You never know how good it is [being in the ring]. Especially as cruiserweights, we don't get any attention, so to put on a fight like this is an awesome thing. It'd be good to do it a third. And this time I wouldn't leave it to the judges."

Saul "Canelo" Alvarez (left) hurt **Shane Mosley** with this body shot in the Mexican's one-sided victory. Image: **Al Bello-Getty Images**

SAUL ALVAREZ UD 12
SHANE MOSLEY

DATE: MAY 5, 2012
SITE: MGM GRAND GARDEN ARENA, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
DIVISION: JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: ALVAREZ 154; MOSLEY 154
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): ALVAREZ NO. 2; MOSLEY UNRATED
NETWORK: HBO PPV

"Sugar" Shane Mosley's Hall of Fame career appears to be all but over, while Saul "Canelo" Alvarez's career is just taking off.

Alvarez (40-0-1, 29 KOs), the WBC 154-pound beltholder, overcame a fourth-round cut over his left eye which bled profusely throughout what was largely a toe-to-toe battle with a man 19 years his senior, on his way to a crowd-pleasing unanimous decision over the 40-year-old resident of Pomona, Calif.

Glenn Trowbridge scored it 119-109, Jesse Reyes had it 119-109, while C.J. Ross had it 118-110 for the Cinco de Mayo bout which served as the co-feature to Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Miguel Cotto.

"I tried to knock him out, he took a lot of punches but it didn't work," said Alvarez, who has Sept. 15 reserved for his next bout, potentially against Paul Williams as this went to press. "This is a huge fight for me, all of the experience, the cut – all of it was new."

The 21-year-old native of Jalisco, Mexico landed hard left hooks and pounding rights to Mosley's midsection and head, but Mosley, unlike in his previous three bouts, valiantly fought back in what could prove to be a proud exit from the sport. Alvarez, rated No. 3 at junior middleweight by THE RING, was the aggressor throughout, walking through Mosley and cutting off the ring in pursuit of his foe. Mosley kept his hands busy, but won nary a round, though the frames were competitive.

The loss ended Mosley's streak of 21 wins over opponents of Mexican descent, including two each over Oscar De La Hoya and Fernando Vargas and another over Antonio Margarito.

Mosley (46-8-1, 39 KOs) slipped to 0-3-1 in his last four bouts, including losses to Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao in May of 2010 and May of 2011, respectively.

"He was really good, he can go a long way. When the kids start beating you up, it may be time to start promoting," said Mosley, whose 21-year-old son, Shane Mosley Jr., is the same age as Alvarez. "It was great to hear the crowd cheering for me, but I didn't expect him to be that good. He's up there with the top. Mayweather, Pacquiao and all of those guys — he's up there with them."

"It was a great experience," Alvarez proclaimed, "this is the beginning of my career."

And a promising one at that.

-Lem Satterfield

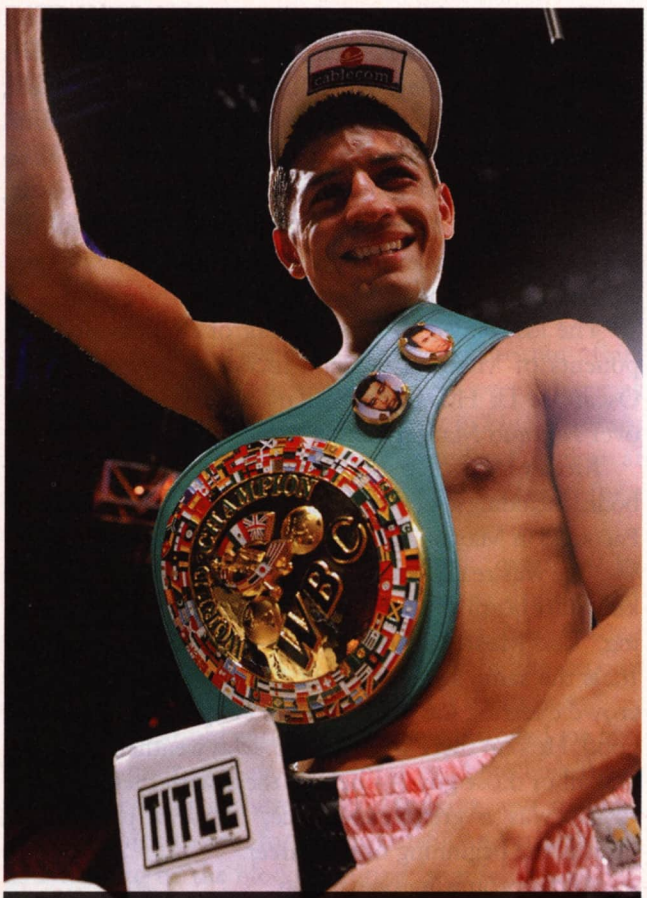
ERISLANDY LARA TKO 1 RONALD HEARNS

After back-to-back sterling performances against top junior middleweights, Erislandy Lara finally was named the victor, erasing Ronald Hearns in the opening stanza on April 20 in Biloxi, Miss – televised on ShoBox: The New Generation.

Lara, a native of Guantanamo, Cuba was calm and measured while Hearns – the son of the legendary Tommy Hearns – fired shots and was the aggressor. Early in the frame, Lara, 29, dropped Hearns (26-3, 20 KOs) with a short, straight left on the inside. Hearns, 33, of Southfield, Mich. beat the count but was wobbly and Lara (16-1-1, 11 KOs) took advantage.

He unloaded a barrage of punches which stunned Hearns, who gave away another knockdown as the ropes held him up. Referee Keith Hughes administered an eight count, but as soon the action resumed, Lara sensed the moment and delivered two devastating shots, forcing Hughes to halt the bout as Hearns crashed to the canvas – the end coming at 1:34 of round one.

THE RING's No. 5 junior middleweight, Lara is primed for a meaningful showdown at 154 pounds.



Abner Mares celebrates after his convincing victory over **Eric Morel.** Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

ABNER MARES UD 12 ERIC MOREL

Abner Mares scored another important victory on Showtime, moving up to junior featherweight to easily defeat Eric Morel over 12 rounds from the Don Haskins Center in El Paso, Texas, on April 21.

This was Mares' fifth consecutive bout televised as part of Showtime Championship Boxing and he is clearly taking advantage of the exposure. His pedigree, exciting style and intriguing backstory (he was homeless as a child) have him on the path to stardom in boxing and this fight showed he can compete in a new weight class of 122 pounds.

The 26-year-old native of Guadalajara, Mexico, now living in Hawaiian Gardens, Calif., started out quickly, pressing the action against the 36-year-old native of San Juan, Puerto Rico. He was the busier fighter and cleaner puncher, as evidenced by the CompuBox numbers: Mares landed 333-of-780 (43 percent) while Morel landed 135-of-565 (a 24 percent clip).

Mares (24-0-1, 13 KOs) also landed the heavier shots and wobbled Morel (46-3, 23 KOs) several times in the bout, making it easy on the judges, who scored it a near shutout – 120-108, 119-109 and 119-109. But Morel, though clearly outgunned, fought bravely in defeat.

The future is bright for Mares, who seems to be happy campaigning at 122 pounds for now. Morel, while he lost, remains No. 5 in the ratings.

ANSELMO MORENO TKO 9 DAVID DE LA MORA

Anselmo Moreno, fighting for just the second time in the United States after making his stateside debut in December, easily dispatched of lightly-regarded David De La Mora in nine rounds on April 21 in El Paso, Texas, on Showtime to retain his bantamweight title.

Moreno (33-1-1, 12 KOs) started quickly, delivering a big right hook to the head of De La Mora (24-2, 17 KOs) that dropped him to his knees in the second stanza. The 26-year-old native of Panama knocked him down again in the sixth with an excellent left hook to the body.

THE RING's No. 1 bantamweight had his way with the 23-year-old native of Tijuana, Mexico. He battered him throughout the fight, landing with ease, and after the conclusion of round eight, De La Mora had had enough, retiring on his stool.

For De La Mora, this is his second consecutive unsuccessful bid at a title, as he a dropped a razor-thin decision to Koki Kameda in August of 2011. Moreno has certainly proven himself to be amongst boxing's top practitioners pound-for-pound and he's finally receiving the credit he deserves.

Anselmo Moreno (right) turned in another excellent performance against **David De La Mora.**

Image: **Naoki Fukda**

THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN UD 10 MARCUS JOHNSON

Thomas Oosthuizen (19-0-1, 13 KOs) scored an impressive victory in his U.S. television debut, establishing himself as a contender at 168 with a wide points victory over Marcus Johnson in the main event of ShoBox on April 27.

Scores were 98-91, 98-91 and 98-91.

The 24-year-old native of South Africa produced his usual high punch output, winning rounds on activity and clean blows. Johnson, a 26-year-old native of Houston, pressed the action but found little success against the 6-foot-4 fighter rated No. 7 by THE RING.

Oosthuizen's pace appeared to tire Johnson (21-2, 15 KOs), who went down in the eighth round from a hard right hand to the midsection. Johnson took a knee to gather himself and finished the competitive fight, though the rounds weren't very close.

SETH MITCHELL TKO 3 CHAZZ WITHERSPOON

Seth Mitchell displayed his resiliency, rallying after a near-disastrous first round to stop Chazz Witherspoon in three rounds on April 27 in Atlantic City, N.J. — the HBO co-feature to Bernard Hopkins-Chad Dawson.

Mitchell, 29, was badly hurt in round one after eating several Witherspoon right hands, and it appeared as if an upset was in the making, as Mitchell was on very shaky legs and was close to going down.

But Witherspoon, 30, couldn't drop him and paid the price. Mitchell (25-0-1, 19 KOs) of Brandywine, Md., went toe-to-toe with Witherspoon — a cousin of notable 80's heavyweight Tim — in the second round, with both heavyweights trading power shots in a thrilling stanza.

Mitchell's hands proved heavier in the third, as he dropped Witherspoon (30-3, 22 KOs) of Paulsboro, N.J., with a big left hook. Witherspoon beat the count but Mitchell sensed the moment and delivered a series of devastating shots which ended the bout at 2:31 when referee Randy Neuman waved it off with Witherspoon on the ropes.

It's not yet clear how well Mitchell will fare when he steps up in class, but one thing seems certain — he'll make it entertaining.

DMITRY PIROG UD 12 NOBUHIRO ISHIDA

Dmitry Pirog (20-0, 15 KOs) maintained his undefeated record, dominating James Kirkland-conqueror Nobuhiro Ishida (24-8-2, 9 KOs) over 12 rounds in what amounts to a stay-busy fight as he looks ahead to his August 25 HBO date with Daniel Geale.

The 31-year-old Pirog, rated No. 4 at middleweight by THE RING, had little problems in the May 1 bout in Moscow, Russia, roughing up the 36-year-old native of Japan on the inside. He opened a cut on Ishida's eye in the ninth round and coasted to a wide-points deci-

Brian Vilora (left) got his revenge against **Omar Nino**. Image: **Jay Directo-AFP-Getty Images**

sion, winning by scores of 120-108, 117-111 and 119-109, retaining his middleweight title.

This was Ishida's second loss in 2012, also losing widely to Paul Williams earlier in the year.

KUBRAT PULEV KO 11 ALEXANDER DIMITRENKO

In a battle between RING-rated heavyweights on May 5 in Erfurt, Germany, Kubrat Pulev scored an 11th-round knockout of Alexander Dimitrenko to win the vacant European heavyweight championship.

This was the sternest test to date for the 31-year-old Bulgaria native and he passed with flying colors, dominating the second half of the bout to capture the signature win of his career so far, firmly putting him in the mix for a bout with a Klitschko brother in the near future.

Dimitrenko (32-2, 21 KOs) of Hamburg, Germany, pressed the fight over the early rounds, with Pulev (16-0, 8 KOs) initiating most of the clinches. But Pulev was too much down the stretch.

Pulev, rated No. 4 by THE RING, found some success on the inside with punishing right hands. Oddly enough, Dimitrenko, 29, gave away his nearly three-inch height advantage by repeatedly dipping and fighting out of a crouch.

Pulev ended matters in the 11th, dropping Dimitrenko for a count of 10 with a power jab. Dimitrenko seemed like he could have beaten the count, as he watched the ref the whole time with attentiveness, but he was a defeated man.

BRIAN VILORIA TKO 9 OMAR NINO

Brian Viloria finally exacted revenge on Omar Nino after losing and drawing with Nino in two previous bouts, stopping his rival in the ninth round on May 12 in Pasig City, Philippines, to retain his 112-pound title.

Viloria, 31, a native of Waipahu, Hawaii, but of Filipino descent, was in control the entire match and the outcome never seemed in doubt. The 36-year-old native of Guadalajara, Mexico, was docked a point in round four for a low blow, not that the deduction mattered.

Viloria (31-3, 18 KOs) wobbled Nino several times in the bout and ended matters in the ninth stanza. He badly hurt Nino (31-5-2, 13 KOs) with a right hand and then a barrage of unanswered shots forced referee Michael Ortega to save Nino from further damage at 2:07 — a formality considering Nino's corner could be seen preparing to throw in the towel.

Viloria, THE RING's No. 2 flyweight, could make his way to premium cable with his string of victories, a bout with Hernan Marquez most appealing.

GENNADY GOLOVKIN TKO 3 MAKOTO FUCHIGAMI

Gennady Golovkin keeps on winning — and knocking foes out, too.

The 2004 Olympic silver medalist for his native Kazakhstan made quick work of Japan's Makoto Fuchigami, steamrolling him in three rounds on May 12 at the Ice Palace "Terminal" in Ukraine.

It was clear from the first round this was going to be a short night's work for Golovkin (23-0, 20 KOs). He created a gash over Fuchigami's eye in the opening round.

Golovkin, 30, dropped him with a right cross in the second and put him away for good in the third round. Golovkin, rated No. 8 at middleweight by THE RING, put Fuchigami, 28, down with a devastating two-punch combo which folded Fuchigami (19-7, 10 KOs) into a corner in a heap. After getting to his feet, he was swarmed by Golovkin and referee Jose Ignacio Martinez stopped the bout at 1:17.

A bout with RING middleweight champion Sergio Martinez would be a very attractive matchup.

MIKKEL KESSLER KO 4 ALLAN GREEN

Mikkel Kessler announced his arrival at 175 pounds with a highlight-reel knockout of Allan Green in the fourth round on May 19 in his hometown of Copenhagen, Denmark.

▶ **Mikkel Kessler** couldn't be happier after stopping **Allen Green** in the fourth round in Copenhagen. Image: **Thomas Sjarup-Associated Press**

The end came at 17 seconds of the fourth frame when Kessler (45-2, 34 KOs) unloaded a left hook which put Green flat on his back and out cold — a chilling one-punch knockout. Referee Ian John-Lewis didn't even bother counting with Green motionless on the canvas.

The fight wasn't easy from the get-go. The 32-year-old native of Tulsa, Okla., dropped Kessler hard towards the end of the first round. Green (31-4, 21 KOs) landed a right cross followed by a left hook to the body which put Kessler down and left him on unsteady legs for the remainder of the round.

But as soon as round two began, the cobwebs appeared to subside, with Kessler snapping jabs and setting the pace. He ended matters in the fourth — and finished Green as a relevant fighter — with a compact left hook on the inside. ■

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH MAY 21, 2012

HEAVYWEIGHTS

KUBRAT PULEV KO 11 ALEXANDER DIMITRENKO
RUSLAN CHAGAEV KO 3 BILLY ZUMBRUN
SETH MITCHELL KO 3 CHAZZ WITHERSPOON
DAVID PRICE KO 4 SAM SEXTON
ODLANIER SOLIS W 12 KONSTANTIN AIRICH
FRANCESCO PIANETA W 10 OLIVER MCCALL
ALEXANDER USTINOV KO 7 JASON GAVERN
JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ KO 4 DARNELL WILSON
KELVIN PRICE W 10 ARRON LYONS
ALEXANDER PETKOVIC KO 2 PATRICK BERGER
VINNY MADDALONE KO 4 CHRIS KOVAL

CRUISERWEIGHTS

MARCO HUCK D 12 OLA AFOLABI
MATEUSZ MASTERNAK W 10 HARI MILES
ALEXANDER ALEKSEEV D 12 FIRAT ARSLAN
RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV KO 1 JAIDON CODRINGTON
DMYTRO KUCHER KO 2 WALTER DAVID CABRAL
WILLIAM BEZERRA KO 1 FERNANDO DE OLIVEIRA
IAGO KILADZE KO 2 JULIEN PERRIAUX
NENAD BOROVCANIN KO 7 VAROL VEKILOGLU
JON LEWIS DICKINSON W 10 MATTY ASKIN
MOSESE SOROVI KO 6 PIETER CRONJE
ISA AKBERBAYEV KO 3 MAURO ADRIAN ORDIALES

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

CHAD DAWSON W 12 BERNARD HOPKINS
MIKKEL KESSLER KO 4 ALLAN GREEN
JUERGEN BRAEHMER W 10 VIKAPITA MERORO
DENIS GRACHEV KO 8 ISMAYL SILLAKH
YUSAF MACK W 12 OMAR SHEIKA
TONY BELLEW KO 5 DANNY MCINTOSH
ROBERTO BOLONTI KO 3 EVERT BRAVO
NADJIB MOHAMMEDI W 12 MOHAMED BELKACEM
CEDRIC AGNEW W 12 OTIS GRIFFIN
ROWLAND BRYANT KO 3 LIBRADO ANDRADE
NICHOLSON POULARD W 10 LIONELL THOMPSON
GUNNAR JACKSON KO 8 DAVID LETIZIA
BLAKE CAPARELLO W 10 ROBERT BERRIDGE

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

ROBERT STIEGLITZ W 12 NADER HAMDAN
THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN W 10 MARCUS JOHNSON
ADONIS STEVENSON KO 2 NOE GONZALEZ ALCOBA
JAMES DEGALE KO 4 CRISTIAN SANAVIA
KAROLY BALZSAY KO 12 DIMITRI SARTISON
FRANCIS CHEKA KO 6 MADA MAUGO
UENSAL ARIK KO 2 BENSON MWAKYEMBE

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

DMITRY PIROG W 12 NOBUHIRO ISHIDA
HASSAN N'DAM N'JIKAM W 12 MAX BURSAK
GENNADY GOLOVKIN KO 3 MAKOTO FUCHIGAMI
JERMAIN TAYLOR W 10 CALEB TRUAX
DEMETRIUS ANDRADE KO 1 RUDY CISNEROS
BRIAN VERA W 8 TARONZE WASHINGTON
JARROD FLETCHER W 10 LES PIPER
ANTE BILIC W 12 RAFAEL BEJARAN
BILLY JOE SAUNDERS KO 1 TONY HILL
BRONCO MCKART W 12 JOSE MEDINA
PATRICK NIELSEN KO 10 GASTON VEGA
ROBBIE BRYANT W 12 ARNEL TINAMPAY

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR W 12 MIGUEL COTTO
SAUL ALVAREZ W 12 SHANE MOSLEY
ERISLANDY LARA KO 1 RONALD HEARNS
CARLOS QUINTANA KO 6 DEANDRE LATIMORE
ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV W 12 MICHEL SORO
ADAM TRUPISH KO 5 DARRYL CUNNINGHAM
JAVIER MACIEL KO 1 CARLOS VILCHES
WILLIE NELSON W 10 YUDEL JHONSON
DAMIAN JONAK W 10 ANDERSON CLAYTON
NIKOLA STEVANOVIC W 12 AYOUB NEFZI
SAM WEBB W 12 MATTHEW HALL
ISHE SMITH KO 4 AYI BRUCE
JIMMY COLAS KO 3 FRANK HAROCHE HORTA
GUIDO PITTO KO 5 WALTER ACUNA

WELTERWEIGHTS

PAULIE MALIGNAGGI KO 9 VYACHESLAV SENCHENKO
JESSIE VARGAS W 10 STEVE FORBES
CARSON JONES KO 9 ALLEN CONYERS
SEBASTIAN LUJAN W 10 JOSE MARIA POMBO
YOSHIHIRO KAMEGAI KO 9 ALFREDO CHAVEZ
KEITH THURMAN KO 3 BRANDON HOSKINS
SHAWN PORTER KO 6 PATRICK THOMPSON
RAY ROBINSON KO 2 TERRANCE CAUTHEN
JUNIOR WITTER W 12 COLIN LYNES
JUAN URANGO KO 2 CRISTIAN CHAVEZ
JOSE COTTO W 10 ERIC CRUZ
SASHA YENGOYAN KO 2 ISLAM TEFFAHI
DMITRY MIKHAYLENKO W 12 SHERZODBEK ALIMJANOV

WBA featherweight titleholder **Chris John** (right) had no trouble with Shoji Kimura.

Image: **AFP-Getty Images**

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

(F) MONICA ACOSTA KO 5 DAYANA CORDERO
DEMARCUS CORLEY KO 10 PAUL MCCLOSKEY
DARREN HAMILTON W 12 ASHLEY THEOPHANE
CLAUDIO ALFREDO OLMEDO KO 1 LIKAR RAMOS
KARIM MAYFIELD KO 5 RAYMOND SERRANO
DIERRY JEAN W 12 LANARDO TYNER
VIKTOR POSTOL W 10 JOSE LOPEZ
JAVIER CASTRO KO 2 CARLOS URIAS
ROBERTO ORTIZ W 12 JAVIER PRIETO
VOLODYMYR KRAVETS W 12 ABDOULAYE SOUKOUNA

LIGHTWEIGHTS

LUIS RAMOS JR. W 10 DANIEL ATTAH
DERRY MATHEWS KO 6 ANTHONY CROLLA
OMAR FIGUEROA KO 2 ROBBIE CANNON
LENNY ZAPPAVIGNA KO 3 BRAD MILNER
MARVIN QUINTERO KO 9 AL SABAUPAN
MARCELINO LOPEZ KO 5 FABIAN MARIMON
MATIAS GOMEZ KO 7 GUILLERMO DE JESUS PAZ
ABDIEL RAMIREZ KO 10 SAUL CARREON
SAMIR ZIANI W 12 ANDRIY KUDRYAVTSEV
RICARDO DOMINGUEZ KO 2 CRISTIAN LOPEZ
JEAN PIERRE BAUWENS KO 1 RYAN BARRETT

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

JUAN CARLOS SALGADO W 12 MARTIN HONORIO
DANIEL PONCE DE LEON W 10 EDUARDO LAZCANO
(F) FRIDA WALLBERG W 10 AMANDA SERRANO
(F) KINA MALPARTIDA KO 6 SRIPHRAE NONGKIPAHUYUTH
VICENTE ESCOBEDO W 10 JUAN RUIZ
GAMALIEL DIAZ W 12 MOISES DELGADILLO
DAIKI KANEKO KO 8 SEIICHI OKADA
SATOSHI HOSONO KO 8 HIROTSUGU YAMAMOTO
LOGAN MCGUINNESS KO 2 MEACHER MAJOR
WILL TOMLINSON TECH. WIN 8 DANIEL RUIZ
CARLOS CARDENAS W 12 ARTURO GOMEZ

FEATHERWEIGHTS

CHRIS JOHN W 12 SHOJI KIMURA
JHONNY GONZALEZ W 12 ELIO ROJAS
RAFAEL MARQUEZ KO 1 ERIC AIKEN
AKIFUMI SHIMODA KO 10 AZAEL GONZALEZ
JAVIER FORTUNA KO 1 YUANDALE EVANS
ROBINSON CASTELLANOS W 12 MIGUEL PIEDRAS
ANDREAS EVENSEN W 12 WILLIE CASEY
DAUD YORDAN KO 2 LORENZO VILLANUEVA
MICHAEL FARENAS W 10 JASON EGERA
ANTONIO ESCALANTE KO 4 FRANCISCO CAMACHO
PATRICK HYLAND KO 4 FRANKIE ARCHULETA
(F) HYUN-MI CHOI W 10 ROCIO CASTILLO
CHONLATARN PIRIYAPINYO KO 6 RANDY MEGRINO

HIROSHIGE OSAWA KO 9 ROBERT KOPA PALUE
LUIS DEL VALLE W 10 CHRISTOPHER MARTIN
OLEH YEFIMOVYCH W 12 SERGIO CARLOS SANTILLAN
MAURICIO JAVIER MUNOZ KO 3 RAMON CONTRERAS
(F) OGLEIDIS SUAREZ W 10 PAMELA BENAVIDEZ
(F) GODA DAILYDAITE W 10 ARLETA KRAUSOVA
ALEXANDER MISKIRTCHIAN W 12 PHILIPPE FRENOIS
MARCEL MEYERDIERCKS W 12 SANTIAGO ALLIONE
VYACHESLAV GUSEV W 12 PADJAI YONGYUTHGYM
DANIEL HERNANDEZ KO 8 SERGIO VILLANUEVA

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

ABNER MARES W 12 ERIC MOREL
(F) JACKIE NAVA W 10 DIANA AYALA
CRISTIAN MIJARES KO 4 EDDY JULIO
OSCAR GONZALEZ KO 9 GIOVANNI CARO
THANGTHONG KIATTAWEESUK KO 10 MACBUTE SINYABI
SOD KOKIETGYM KO 3 SAHRIL FABANYO
LUCAS CARRANZA W 10 GUILLERMO SOLOPPI
KID GALAHAD KO 9 JOSH WALE
ALI HALLAB KO 4 JORGE PEREZ

BANTAMWEIGHTS

ANSELMO MORENO KO 9 DAVID DE LA MORA
TOMOKI KAMEDA KO 10 JAIRO HERNANDEZ
JULIO CEJA KO 3 CRUZ CARBAJAL
RYUICHI FUNAI KO 7 EIJI TSUTSUMI
ANTHONY SETTOUL KO 7 JEROME ARNOULD
DIEGO SANTILLAN KO 3 ROBERTO SANTOS DE JESUS

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

OMAR NARVAEZ W 12 JOSE CABRERA
JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ W 12 JUAN ALBERTO ROSAS
RODEL MAYOL W 10 JULIO CESAR MIRANDA
LIBORIO SOLIS W 12 SANTIAGO ACOSTA
OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI KO 6 HAYATO KIMURA
MARCO DEMECILLO KO 3 MARVIN MABAIT
IVAN MORALES KO 1 EDGAR MARTINEZ
CARLOS RUEDA W 10 EVERTH BRICENO
FERNANDO LUMACAD W 12 GLENN SUMINGUIT
ISACK JUNIOR TECH. WIN 12 JECKER BUHAWE

FLYWEIGHTS

BRIAN VILORIA KO 9 OMAR NINO
JUAN CARLOS REVECO W 12 KARIM GUERFI
(F) MARIANA JUAREZ W 10 ARELY MUCINO
(F) MELISSA MCMORROW W 10 SUSI KENTIKIAN
RICARDO NUNEZ KO 6 CARLOS TAMARA

David De La Mora (left) got in this good shot but he was no match for **Anselmo Moreno**. Image: **Naoki Fukuda**

EDRIN DAPUDONG W 10 DONDON JIMENEA
TAKUYA KOGAWA W 10 TETSUMA HAYASHI
LUKE WILTON KO 1 FRANCIS MIYEYUSHO
KWANPICHIT 13 RIEN EXPRESS KO 5 NOEL ADELMITA
DANNY FLORES DQ 5 ERIC ORTIZ
LOLITO SONSONA TECH. WIN 6 ALBERT ALCOY

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

ROMAN GONZALEZ KO 4 RAMON GARCIA HIRALES
K. PORPRAMOOK TECH. WIN 5 JONATHAN TACONING
LUIS CEJA KO 5 SAMMY REYES
PEDRO GUEVARA W 12 JOSE GUADALUPE MARTINEZ
RANDY PETALCORIN W 12 SAMARTLEK CHAIYONGGYM
(F) SU-YUN HONG KO 4 FAHPRATAN LOOKSAIKONGDIN
MICHAEL LANDERO W 10 ROQUE LAURO
LUIS ALBERTO RIOS KO 5 LUIS CARRILLO
MERCEDES CONCEPCION KO 6 LEROY ESTRADA
JERSON MANCIO KO 5 CHARLIE CABILLA
SHIN ONO W 8 XIONG ZHAO ZHONG

STRAWWEIGHTS

DENVER CUELLO KO 2 GANIGAN LOPEZ
WANHENG MENAYOTHIN KO 2 BOY TANTO
(F) ANABEL ORTIZ KO 5 SUSANA PEREZ
MERLITO SABILLO KO 7 JONATHAN REFUGIO
DONNY MABAO W 10 MICHAEL RODRIGUEZ

Dr. Margaret Goodman says that headgear gives the user a false sense of security. Image: **Feng Li-Getty Images**

HEADGEAR: DOES IT PROTECT THE BRAIN?

By **Dr. Margaret Goodman**

As an amateur fight doctor in 1994, seeing children as young as 8 box, I learned that headgear gives the wearer a false sense of security. Eighteen years later, with the upcoming London Olympics and women's boxing debut where headgear is mandatory, little has changed to prove its usefulness in preventing brain damage.

An ongoing Purdue University study of high school football players used accelerometers in football helmets and performed before-and-after brain scans. It found brain activity changes in players who had repeated head blows during the season without concussive symptoms (dizziness, headache, confusion, nausea, etc.).

In fact, statistics are demonstrating more and more that football helmets don't protect the brain, an issue that is again front page news since the suicide of former NFL great Junior Seau. The linebacker's brain is to be examined for chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a progressive degeneration of the brain from injury that is directly linked to depression, as well as dementia.

These studies are significant for boxing because they may show that concussion can occur from hits to the head over time – not from just one fight or one sparring session. If football helmets are ineffective, how can boxing headgear be anything more than a Band-Aid? To answer this, you have to look at the biomechanics of head injury.

The Cleveland Traumatic Neuromechanics Consortium, operated by Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University, is attempting to understand the forces producing brain, head, neck and spine injuries in the hope that this research will improve protective gear, treatments and prevention. The key is finding the threshold for brain damage and how easily it can happen.

Their biomechanics lab at Lutheran Hospital is replicating hook punches to the head using a crash-test dummy and pendulum. Their data, published online in the Journal of Neurosurgery, measured linear

and rotational impacts in four combinations: no headgear or gloves, headgear without gloves, gloves without headgear and headgear with gloves. Impacts delivered with gloves and headgear were the safest in reducing impact forces. However, this was only seen with linear impact (straight punches or jabs). Rotational impact (from punches that cause the head to rotate, such as hooks) was not lessened, irrespective of gloves or headgear.

In rugby, concussion accounts for 15% of all injuries. In 2009, 4,000 Australian Rugby players between 12-20 years old were studied to determine headgear effectiveness. One group wore no headgear, the second group wore a scrum cap, and the third group wore modified headgear with dense, thick foam padding. The research, published in Medicine & Science in Sports and Exercise, showed headgear prevented minor wounds, but was of no benefit in preventing concussion.

Respected New York State Athletic Commission physician Dr. Barry Jordan confirmed the Rugby and Lutheran Hospital results years earlier. As director of the traumatic brain injury program at Burke Hospital in White Plains, New York, Jordan told the Associated Press in 2009, "The key to a knockout or technical knockout is the kind of blow that causes the head to rotate. Headgear doesn't prevent the rotational acceleration that you see in boxing."

Jordan's research looked at amateur Dutch boxers competing at Golden Glove levels. Testing the fighter's ability to plan, concentrate and pay attention, they performed worse than boxers who didn't compete. Jordan summarized, "Headgear can offer some protection, notably to the ears, but the study indicates headgear does not protect the brain against the impact of dangerous punches to the chin."

Good defensive skills protect a fighter more than headgear. Image: **Michael Steele-Getty Images**

Not everyone agrees. A study in the Journal of Military Medicine evaluated 18,000 boxing Marine Corps trainees. They found only three serious injuries and concluded that if a boxing program is well-supervised, the risks are minimal. They might have a point, except that fighters in the study sparred only three 15-second rounds.

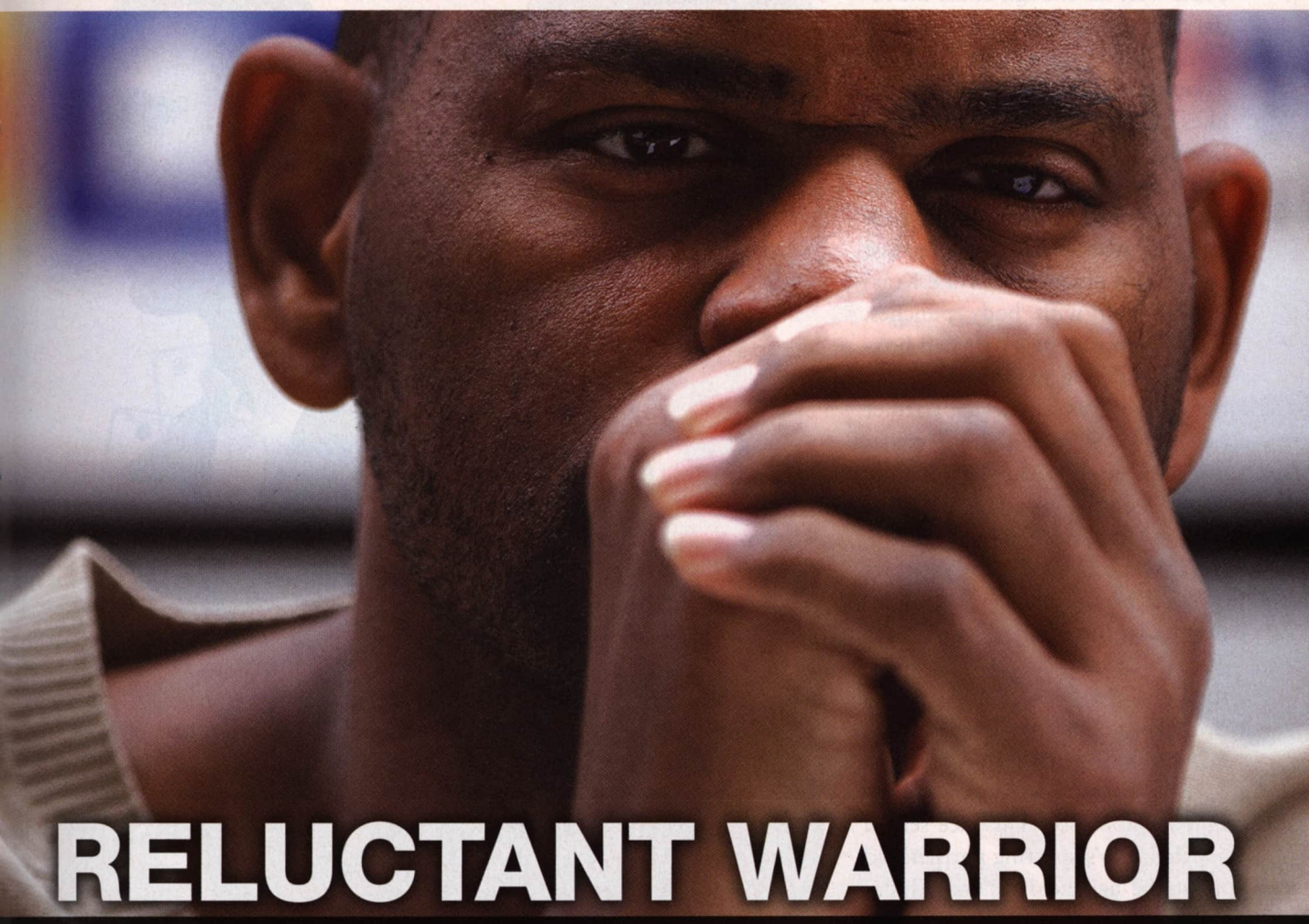
True, boxing is not football or rugby. The studies on what happens to an amateur or professional boxer's brain are limited. But Las Vegas' Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health has already shown that after as little as 6 years of exposure, the brain of a professional fighter shows changes. Sadly, they did not factor in amateur experience and the age when fighters began boxing. This is important since children recover more slowly from concussion than adults.

In a January 2012 *Boston Globe* article entitled "The Black Hole of Sports," Boston University Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy co-director Dr. Robert Cantu noted, "...children under 14 should not play collision sports like football, ice hockey, soccer and lacrosse until they are modified to eliminate head blows in routine practice and play."

Cantu is right. A better defense and limiting exposure is ultimately the answer until a time when headgear protects against rotational forces. Although no research thus far is conclusive, trainers and amateur coaches should be aware that concussions are tough to diagnose. A fighter may exhibit no symptoms. But blows are additive and may result in brain damage later. No one knows how much impact is necessary, what are the genetic or environmental factors, how important is age and how close together or far apart the blows have to be to produce a problem.

I often see parents of amateur fighters dismiss the effects of head injury because their kids wear headgear in a fight. Believing there is only so much force one child can inflict on another is foolish. It's imperative to make certain symptoms have fully resolved before sparring/competing again. Otherwise the amateur is at risk of long term brain damage.

Cantu, who has a book coming out later this year on concussion and children, says it doesn't make sense to submit young individuals to head injury. "There's no head injury that's a good one, and you can't play collision sports without accumulating head injuries." ■



RELUCTANT WARRIOR

Tony Thompson said boxing is just a job to him. Image: **Fabrice Coffrini-AFP-Getty Images**

By **Don Stradley**

Tony Thompson doesn't like boxing. He considers it a job, and like many Americans, he doesn't particularly enjoy his chosen field. The first time Thompson fought Wladimir Klitschko for the heavyweight championship, he said he was doing it to get air-conditioning for his house. It was a good line, and it put Thompson in position to be the Jim Braddock for the Facebook-era. But while he gave a strong effort that night in Hamburg, there was no *Cinderella Man* ending; he was knocked out by Klitschko in 11 rounds.

Thanks to the current shortage of capable heavyweights, Thompson has found himself scheduled to fight Klitschko for the title a second time. There is some irony here, for Thompson never wanted to be a boxer in the first place, and he's adamant that there are plenty of other things he'd rather do. We see where he's coming from. Thompson's stiff-legged gait and hangdog expression don't exactly scream "baddest man on the planet." Put him in coveralls, and he'd look like a furniture mover. Meanwhile, the return bout is set for July 7, to take place in the Stade de Suisse Wankdorf in Bern, Switzerland, home of the BSC Young Boys football club. For Thompson, a 40-year-old father of eight, it's a roundabout way to pay for home appliances.

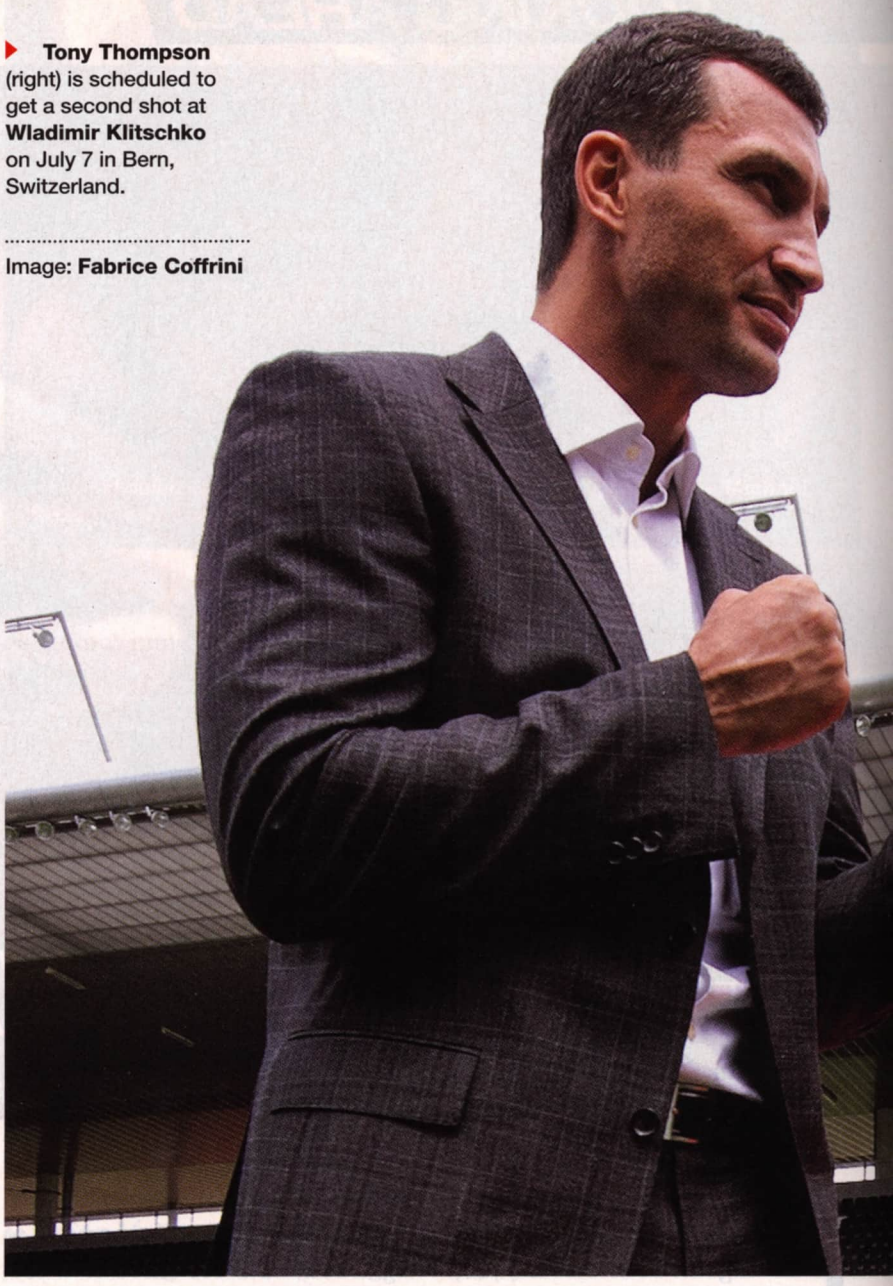
Thompson has racked up more miles than money during his career, and he has had his share of disappointments. He tasted defeat early, losing in his fifth pro bout to Eric Kirkland back in 2000 at the Cape Cod Melody Tent in Hyannis, Mass. In 2002, Thompson took part in Cedric Kushner's "Fistful of Dollars" tournament, exactly the sort of thing a man fighting for air-conditioning would do, boxing in a one-night tourney in Atlantic City, N.J., for a suitcase full of cash. Thompson lost in the final match to Maurice Harris. Fortunately, those

bouts were far enough under the radar that no one paid close attention.

As his career rolled along, Thompson picked up wins over the likes of Yanqui Diaz, Vaughn Bean, Dominick Guinn, Tibor Ibragimov, and Luan Krasniqi. Maybe his style wasn't pretty, but he could beat guys; he won every round against Guinn and practically broke Krasniqi in half with body punches. Still, Thompson never treated boxing as anything more than a job, taking work as a sparring partner and fighting in such obscure locales as the Leesburg Armory, in Leesburg, Va., and the Tachi Palace Casino, in Lemoore, Calif.

Thompson nearly cried tears of relief back in October when he heard that the IBF had named him as Klitschko's mandatory challenger. He'd been hampered by a bum knee during the first bout and has wondered ever since how he would have done if not for the injury. Thompson had once served as Klitschko's sparring partner and insists he had held his own. Judging by the first few rounds of their 2008 bout, we don't doubt him. As soon as the rematch was announced, Thompson called his promoter, Dan Goossen, and promised to knock Klitschko out. Since then, Thompson has been low-key. He's not an obnoxious sort, promising only that he is healthy and taking the sport more seriously.

After losing to Klitschko in 2008, Thompson had knee surgery, experimented with oxygen therapy and rented himself out as a sparring partner for David Haye. He also has won five consecutive fights, all inside the distance; he even avenged his "Fistful of Dollars" loss by stopping Harris in three. An IBF elimination bout was set for Thompson to face Eddie Chambers, but Chambers backed out because of an injury. The IBF, perhaps as weary as the fans are of these things, simply handed the title shot to Thompson. By the time he meets Klitschko in July, Thompson will have gone 14 months without a fight. He says it doesn't matter. He knows how to take care of himself.



Tony Thompson (right) is scheduled to get a second shot at **Wladimir Klitschko** on July 7 in Bern, Switzerland.

Image: **Fabrice Coffrini**

As for Klitschko, he has mastered a tedious style that is hard to break, but he hasn't completely erased the questions about his chin. He's better at protecting it than he used to be – getting into Area 51 would be easier than reaching Wlad's whiskers these days – but we have to think someone will eventually fire one past the Ukrainian's high guard, and a new champion will be crowned. Why not Thompson?

In their first bout, Thompson was effective early, ambling forward and causing Klitschko some discomfort. But by the middle rounds, the fight turned messy. Both fighters were exhausted, bleeding from headbutt cuts. Klitschko managed to get his second wind and wore Thompson down with long-range shots until a right hand in the 11th ended Thompson's dream of cen-

tral cooling. Thompson fell, limp as a rag doll.

Since then, the heavyweight division has fallen under a cloud. Thompson doesn't think Klitschko, his brother Vitali or the European-centric weight class, have been treated fairly by us Yanks.

"I think it's American arrogance, actually," Thompson told boxinginsider.com back in April. "I just think that we're so used to dominating the heavy part of the sport, that we just found reasons to, you know, put the contenders down, and not give the Klitschkos full credit."

That's a reasonable point. But we're troubled that Thompson is such a Klitschko supporter. The more respect he pays Klitschko, and the more he says that boxing is just a job, the more he seems like someone setting himself up to lose. Thompson can appear wishy-washy, sometimes telling us he's hungry and wants to win but in the same breath reminding us that would rather do anything else but box. This mindset is unfortunate, because he's the first challenger in a while who is big enough to face Klitschko eyeball to eyeball. Klitschko's last two opponents have been blown-up cruiserweights who couldn't find Klitschko with a map. All Thompson has to do is throw some hard stuff at Klitschko's chin. If Thompson connects, he might win. He might even start liking his job. ■

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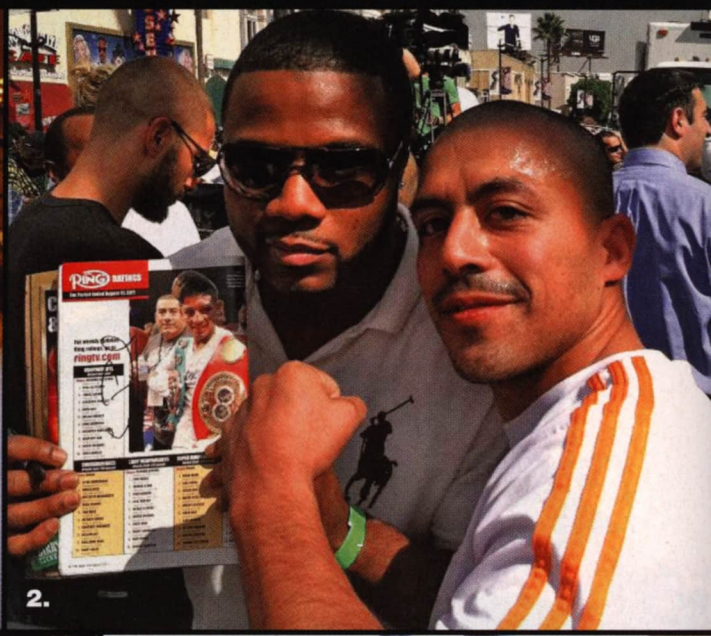
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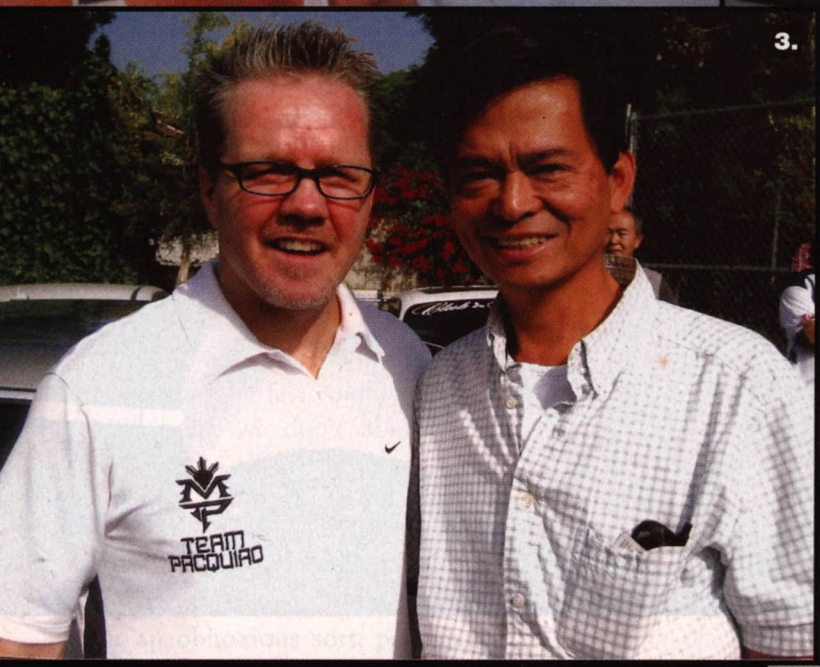

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1. Beverley Instone with Oscar De La Hoya in Las Vegas. 2. Leo Trejo with Jean Pascal in Hollywood, Calif. 3. Freddie Roach with Jessie Gawaran in Los Angeles. 4. Corinne Matela with Max Kellerman. 5. Hector Rivera with Felix Trinidad and Ivan Calderon at the weighin for Lopez-Salido II in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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5.

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